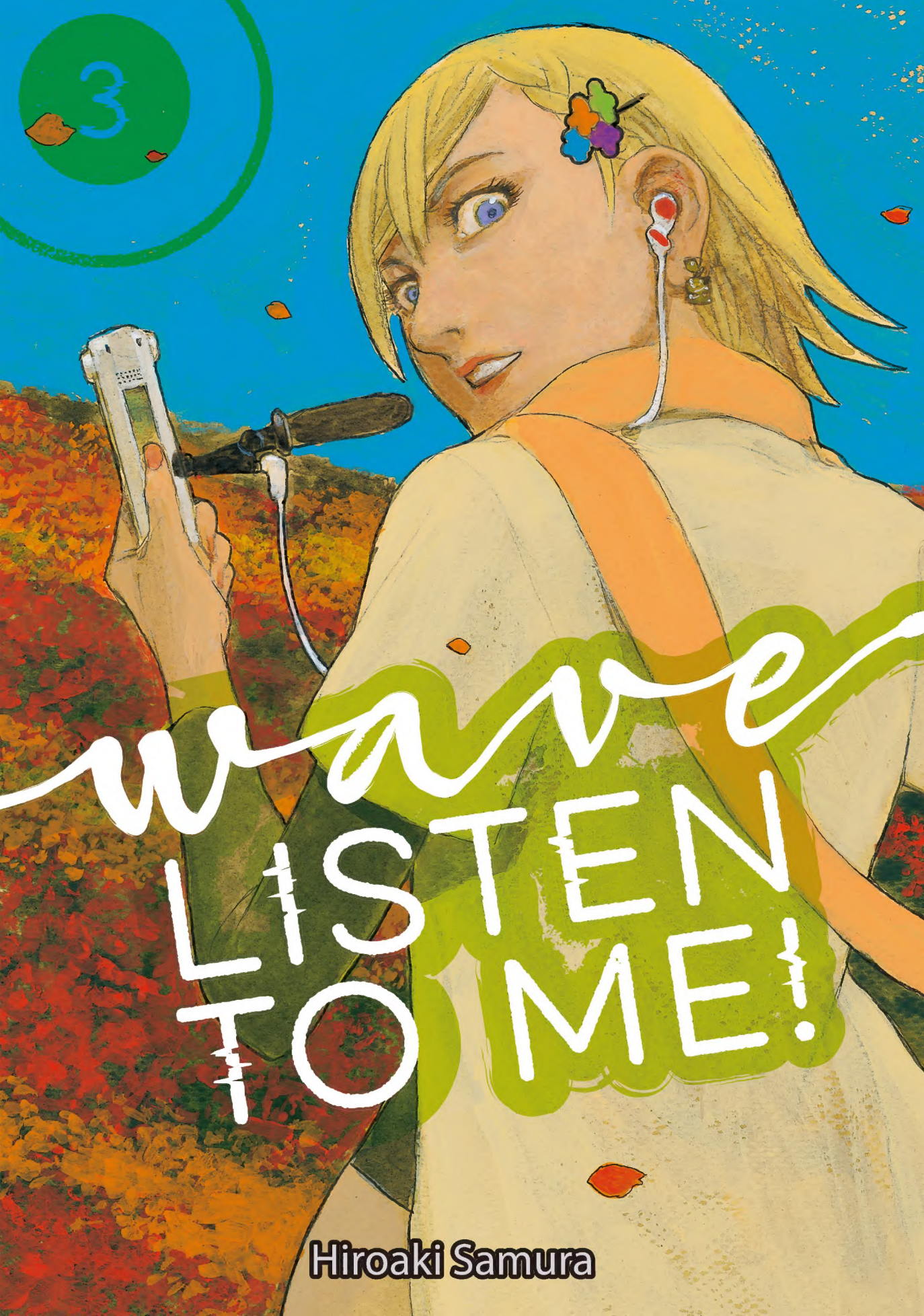

3
wave
LISTEN TO ME!
Hiroaki Samura

HIROAKI

3

SAMURA

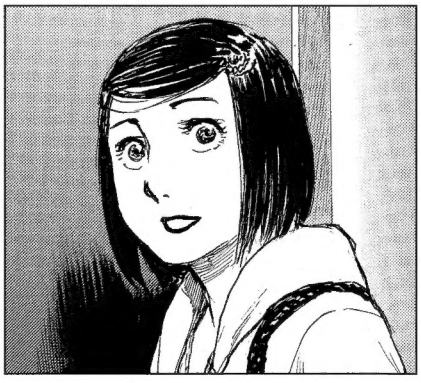
Mamere

LISTEN TO ME!

Sapporo, Hokkaido. One night at a bar, Minare Koda has her heartbroken ramblings secretly recorded by a local FM radio station director, Mato, who then airs the audio over the air the following day. Minare storms into the station, only to then be duped by Mato into doing an impromptu talk show explaining her harsh dialogue. As it turns out, the segment was a hit, leading to Minare getting her own show. Her first broadcast, a fictitious play-by-play centered around the murder of an ex-boyfriend who left her, was well received. And now for her second broadcast, an audio drama themed after a burial in the dead of night…

Minare Koda

The protagonist. Kushiro-born Sapporo resident. Currently 25 and single. Her day job is working as a waitress at the soup curry restaurant VOYAGER, but with her termination over the horizon, she's scrambling to make a living as a radio DJ.



Mizuho Nanba

Assistant director at MRS. Currently letting Minare stay with her after she was kicked out of her apartment. Virgin.

Kanetsugu Mato

Director of FM station "Moiwayama Radio" (MRS). Saw potential in Minare's conversational ability and scouted her for the radio business.

Katsumi Kureko

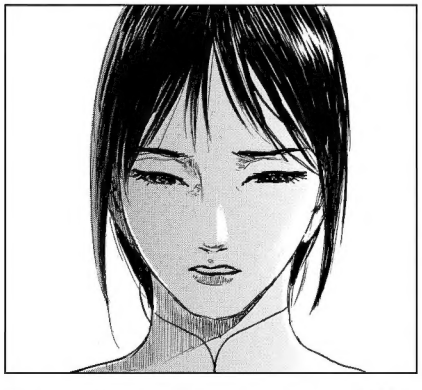
A scriptwriter for MRS and a veteran of the industry. Supposedly goes way back with Mato.

Chuuya Nakahara

An employee at VOYAGER. Supposedly in love with Minare, but invited Makie to stay at his place.

Mitsuo

Minare's audacious ex-boyfriend who swindled her out of 500,000 yen before vanishing without a trace. Recently contacted Minare again to try to patch things up. Fukuoka-born



Makie Tachibana

A beautiful woman working at VOYAGER to help pay for the car accident caused by her brother. Not the most skilled swordsman in the manga, nor a prostitute.

Chapter 17 「ANAEROBES FEAR NOTHING.」 005
Chapter 18 「IT'S MY DUTY.」 027
Chapter 19 「I WANT TO WARM YOU.」 049
Chapter 20 「THEY DON'T EXIST.」 069
Chapter 21 「STEAM IS UNCONCEALABLE.」 091
Chapter 22 「I WANT TO CRY.」 107
Chapter 23 「I WANT TO SUPPORT YOU.」 129
Chapter 24 「YAKITORI MUST NEVER BE REMOVED.」 151

Chapter 17
"ANAEROBES FEAR NOTHING."

GAAA
SHE'S YELLING AGAIN...
I'm beat...

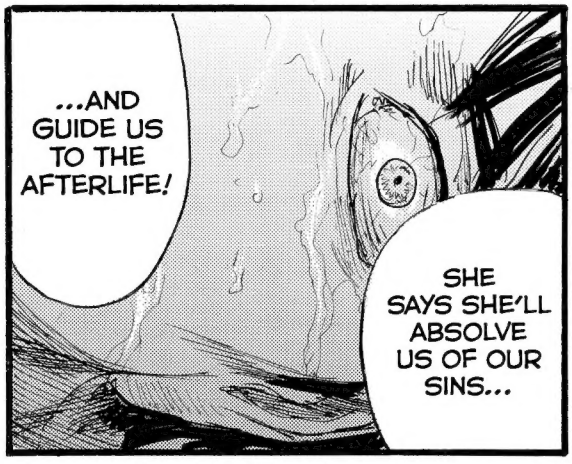
GRRRRRR
GRRRRRR
MINA-CHAA-AAN!
MITSU-OOOO!

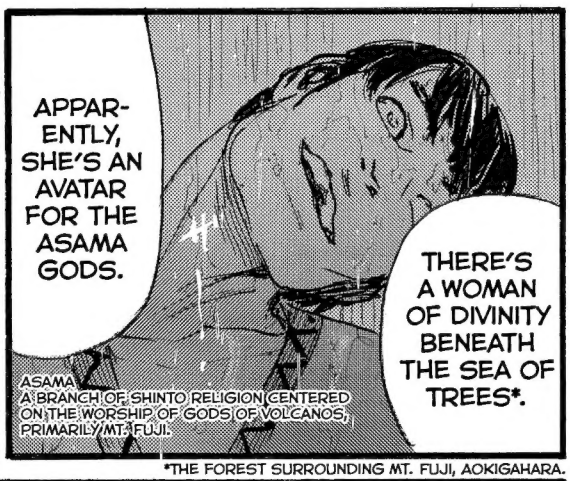
MINA...
...CHA-AAN.

THAT'S SOME MUSCLE...
WE BURIED YOU SIX FEET UNDER!
I MEAN...

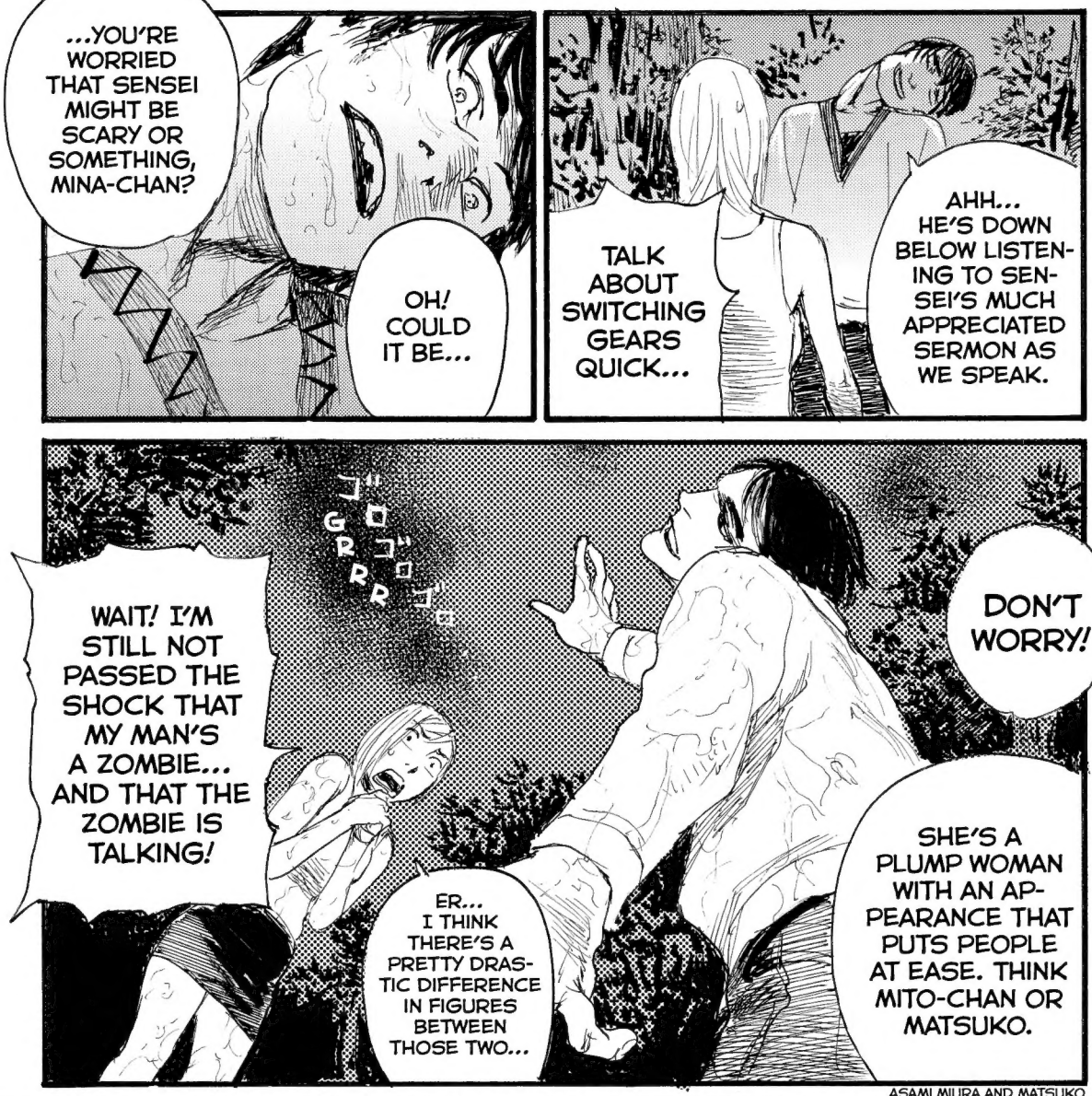
WHA-AAT?!
OHHH, GOD!
WHY ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?!

MINA-CHAN.

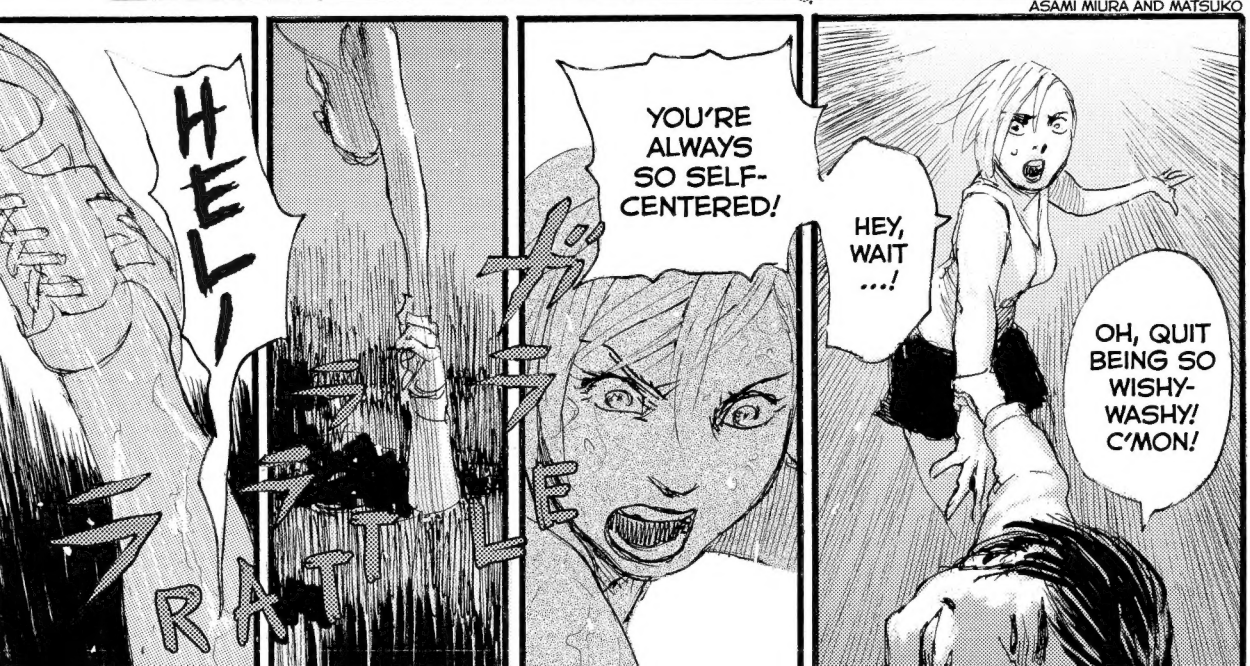


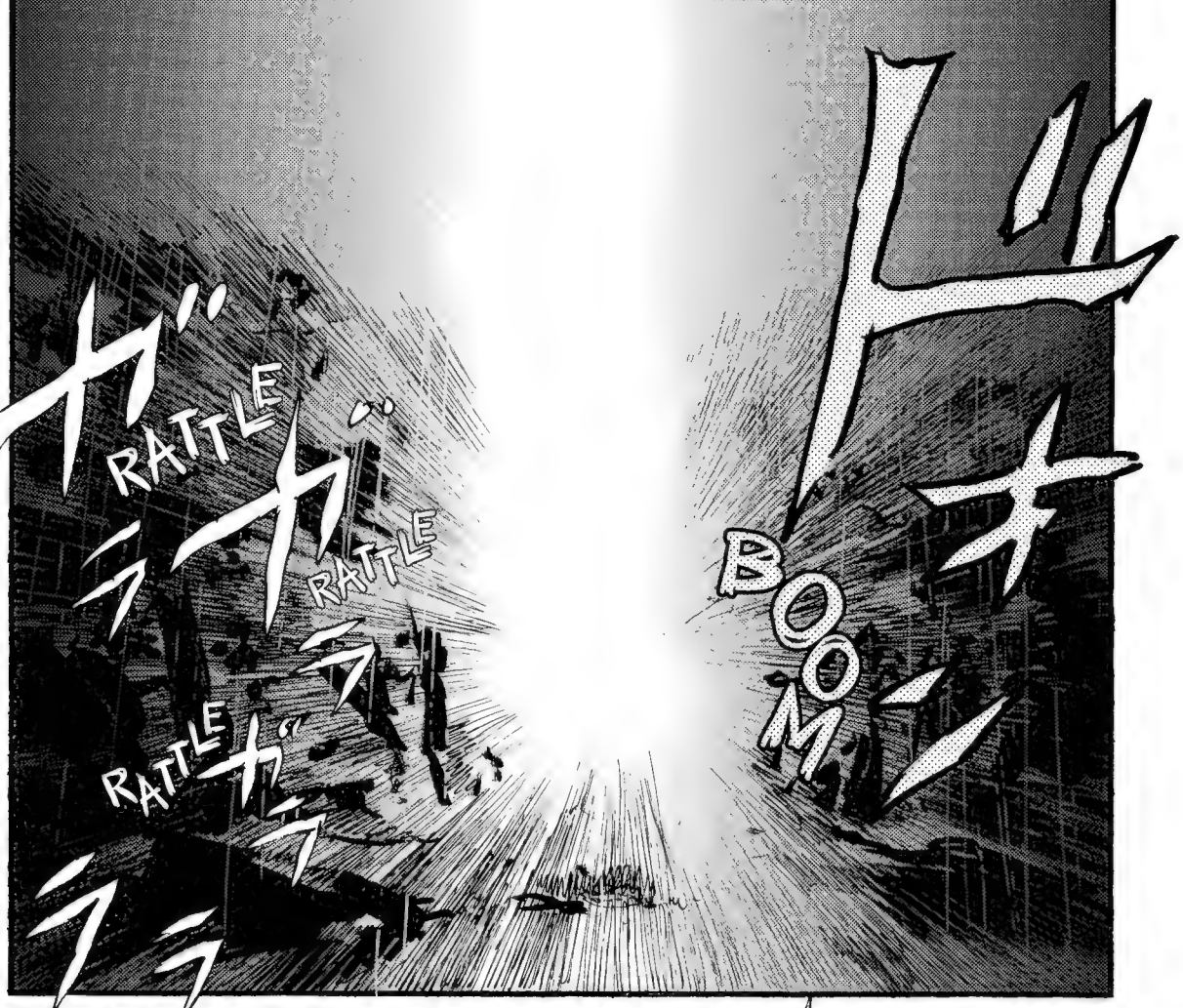


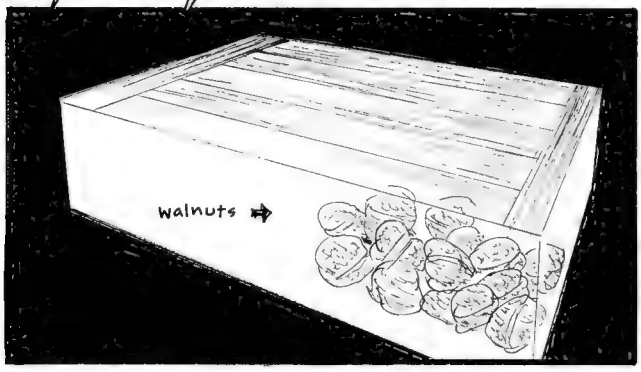
*THE FOREST SURROUNDING MT. FUJI, AOKIGAHARA.



ASAMI MIURA AND MATSUKO




RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
BOOM


walnuts

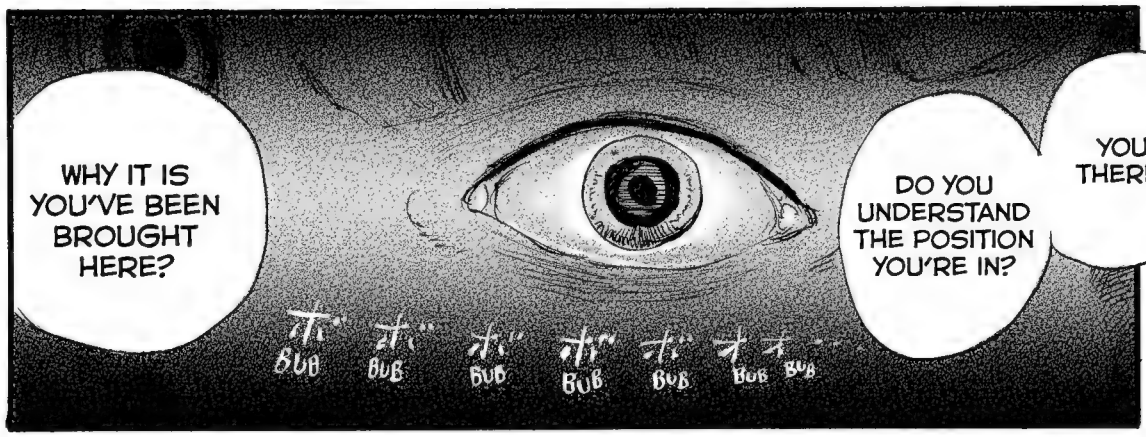
BA-DOOM
Iron plate
BOOM!

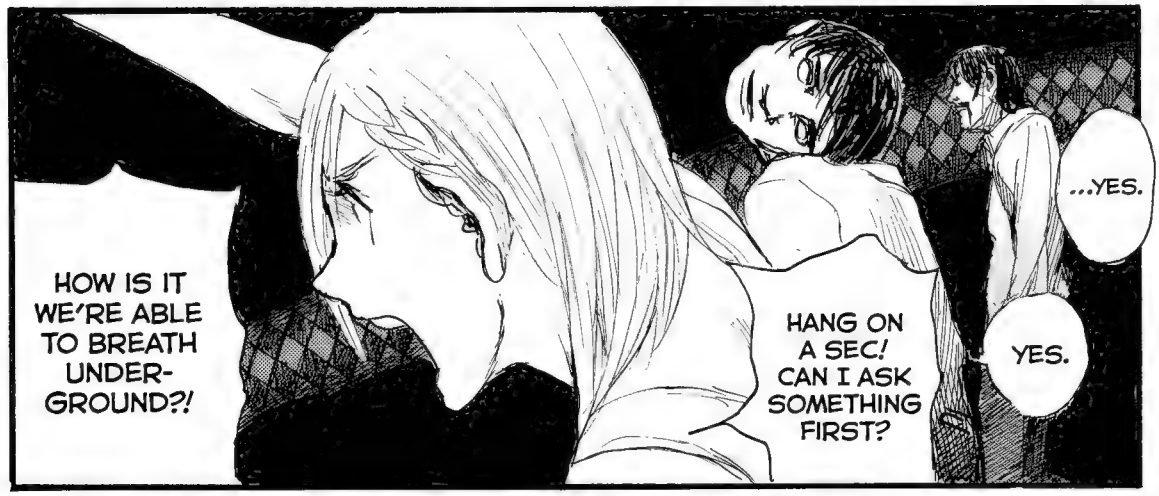
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

RIP
CRACK
SHRRRR!
Plywood
GRRR DRRR
RATTLE
RATTLE
SHRRT
SHRRT
SHUT UUUUP!
DU SPINNET
PRETTY ENTER-TAINING STUFF.
NOT THAT IT'LL COME IN HANDY FOR ANYTHING IN THE FUTURE...

I'VE NEVER BEEN ASKED TO MAKE SUB-TERRANEAN SOUNDS BEFORE.
I'LL JUST WING IT...
BUB
ボ

BUB
...IS SHE THE TYPE WHO'D LOOK CUTE IF SHE LOST WEIGHT?


WHY IT IS YOU'VE BEEN BROUGHT HERE?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE POSITION YOU'RE IN?
YOU THERE.
BUB


HOW IS IT WE'RE ABLE TO BREATH UNDER-GROUND?!
HANG ON A SEC! CAN I ASK SOMETHING FIRST?
YES.
...YES.

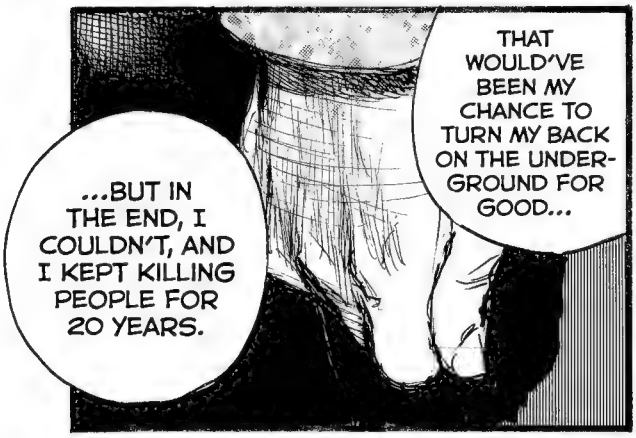
THIS VOICE WAS MADE USING MATO-SAN'S, TOO? THAT'S CRAZY.
Well...are you aware what an anaerobe is?

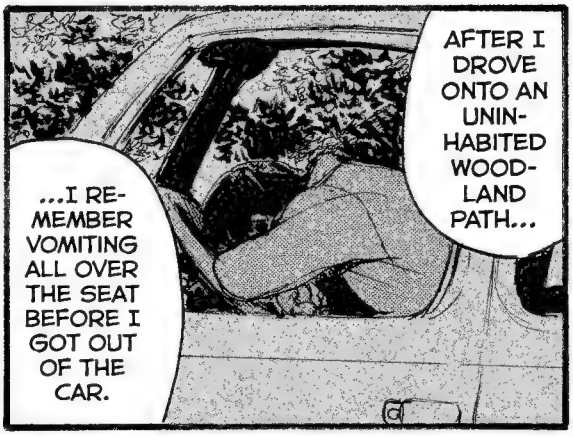
IF YOU'RE GONNA END YOUR EXPLANATION SO LIGHTLY, WHY NOT JUST SAY "BECAUSE SPIRITS" AND BE DONE WITH IT?
WHY BOTHER WITH THAT INFO IN THE FIRST HALF?!
YOUR BODIES HAVE BEEN REMODELED TO MIMIC SUCH PROPERTIES...
BY MEANS OF SPIRITUAL POWERS.
They mostly consist of bacterium.
IT IS A GENERAL TERM FOR ORGANISMS WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE OXYGEN TO REPRODUCE, OR WOULD DIE WHEREVER OXYGEN IS PRESENT.
AS THEY DO NOT REQUIRE OXYGEN, THEY GENERATE ENERGY THROUGH ANAEROBIC RESPIRATION AND LACTIC FERMENTATION.
I SHALL PURIFY YOUR KARMA AND GUIDE YOUR SOULS TO NEW VESSELS.
NOW...
DIVULGE THE KARMA YOU'VE ACCUMULATED DURING YOUR LIVES.
IT IS A SACRED MOUNTAIN WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF WORSHIP SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
AOKIGAHARA FOREST, AS WELL AS MT. FUJI...
...WERE ADDED TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST BY UNESCO IN 2013.
HUH...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

If those aimless souls are left adrift in the forest unpurified...
Nonetheless, every year, over 100 people are said to commit suicide in Aokigahara.
WAS THE UNESCO BIT REALLY NECESSARY?
This of course includes the context of nature worship...
...however, it is also due to the existence of the spirit path, a road on which spirits travel.
...IT IS SAID THEY'LL BLOCK THE SPIRIT PATH LIKE A BAD CASE OF CONSTIPATION AND EVENTUALLY CAUSE MT. FUJI TO EXPLODE.
HUH?!
WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT?!
OH, HUSH, YOU... ON THE 2CH OCCULT BOARD AND SUCH.

OH! OH! OH!
NOW, LAY BARE YOUR KARMA!
LET'S START WITH THE MAN ON THE LEFT.
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM! WHAT'S KARMA?
Y'mean that curry shop in Kyoto?
That would be Kamaru.
YOU CERTAINLY ARE NOISY. KARMA IS...UHH, THINGS YOU'RE GUILTY OF AND WHATNOT. YOU KNOW.
...KILLED A TOTAL OF 19 PEOPLE.
I USE A DESIGN FIRM AS A FRONT...
...BUT OUTSIDE OF DISPOSING OF BODIES, I'VE NEVER USED THE COMPANY FOR ANY-THING ELSE.
BUB
I'VE...
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I TRIED TO WORK HONESTLY ...
BUT I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO FACE PEOPLE WHO I CAN'T STAND.
I CAN'T BEAR IT WHEN PEOPLE SEEK CHILLING SKILLS LIKE COMMUNICATIVE ABILITIES FROM ME. I'M A CLAS-SIC EXAMPLE OF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T CONFORM TO SOCIETY.
I'LL NEVER FORGET MY FIRST KILL.
IT WAS JANUARY, 20 YEARS AGO.
WHAT'S MORE, I WAS BORN WITH EXCELLENT VISUAL ACUITY,
AND I'M GREAT AT MAKING MY PRESENCE UNKNOWN.
TO TOP IT OFF, I HAD A FRIEND WITH TIES TO THE UNDER-GROUND.

I RAN BOTH OF THEM OVER WITH MY CAR.
THE TARGET WAS AN EXECUTIVE OUT FOR A WALK IN THE SNOW WITH HIS GRANDDAUGHTER.


THAT WOULD'VE BEEN MY CHANCE TO TURN MY BACK ON THE UNDERGROUND FOR GOOD...
...BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T, AND I KEPT KILLING PEOPLE FOR 20 YEARS.


AFTER I DROVE ONTO AN UNINHABITED WOODLAND PATH...
...I REMEMBER VOMITING ALL OVER THE SEAT BEFORE I GOT OUT OF THE CAR.

I HAVE NO REGRETS.
WHAT SHOULD I EVEN REGRET IN THE FIRST PLACE?
THAT WAS THAT ONLY PATH AVAILABLE TO ME.

BUT Y'KNOW,
IF I COULD HAVE BECOME SOMETHING ELSE...
...I MIGHT'VE PREFERRED TO BE SOMEONE WHO COULD CHAT IT UP WITH PEOPLE I DON'T GET ALONG WITH.

...YOU WILL BE REINCARNATED AS THE FIRST-BORN SON OF A MODEST POSTAL WORKER COUPLE IN HALLAND, SWEDEN.
MATTO THE ASSASSIN,
IN ONE YEAR...
SNAP
SECOND? NO. FOR YOU...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE WHEN I SHOWED UP FOR WORK TODAY.
BUB BUB
BUB BUB BUB BUB
I'M NOT A FAN OF THE COLD.
OH, WELL. NO COM-PLAINTS HERE.
WHAT A WEIRD SOUND...
FYOOO
...THIS IS THE 8740TH TIME.
POP!!
NOW, THEN. MITSUO, LAY BARE YOUR LIFE'S KARMA.

MMM... I DUNNO IF THIS COUNTS AS KARMA OR NOT.
BUT FOR ME, WHAT I FIND STRANGE ...
...IS THAT NO MATTER WHAT I DO OR HOW I ACT...
...I ALWAYS SEEM TO END UP MAKING WOMEN ANGRY.
I'M JUST TRYING TO LIVE MY LIFE,
BUT TAKE TODAY FOR EX-AMPLE.
AFTER BEING MUR-DERED LIKE THIS...

...FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT MADE ME THINK, "OH, MAN. I MUST'VE MADE HER REALLY ANGRY, HUH?"
I MEAN...
...YOU KNOW HOW PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY YOU SHOULD LIVE HON-ESTLY,
OR HOW YOU SHOULDN'T LIE TO YOUR-SELF.

BUT IF YOU'RE ALWAYS HONEST AND DO WHAT YOU WANT, THERE'LL BE TIMES WHEN YOU END UP HURTING OTH-ER PEOPLE, RIGHT?
I don't have anything to do now.
YEAH, I GET IT. WHEN THEY SAY THINGS LIKE THAT...
...THEY ALSO MEAN WITH-OUT CAUSING TROUBLE FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

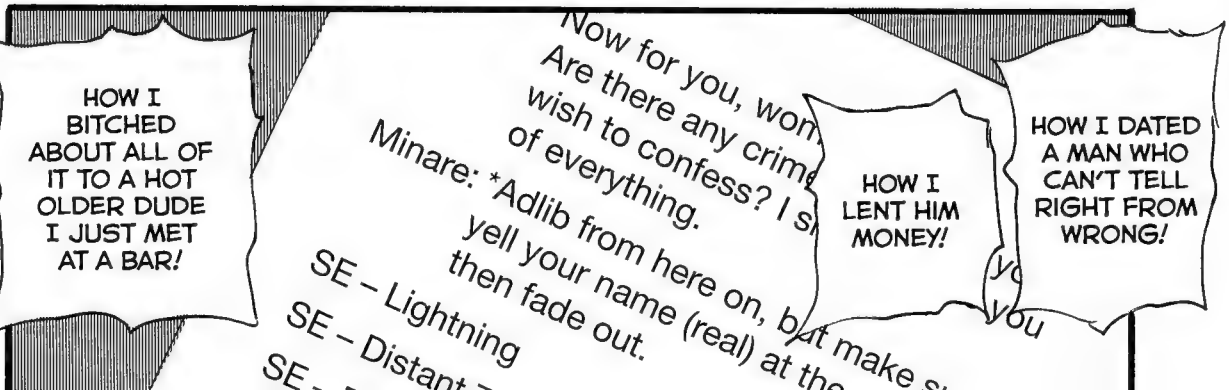
I THINK THAT I...
...MIGHT JUST BE MORE OUT OF SYNC THAN MOST.
WE'RE TAUGHT THAT WE SHOULDN'T TREAT OTHERS HOW WE WOULDN'T WANT TO BE TREATED,
BUT THE WAY THAT'S INTERPRETED VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
BUT Y'KNOW ...
...THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW TO ACCOMMODATE OTHER PEOPLE OR TO WHAT DEGREE.
SO I THINK I'LL PROBABLY MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.
I NEVER KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE WRONG IN THE FIRST PLACE.
EVEN THOUGH I CAN APOLOGIZE FOR THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED, I'M UNABLE TO LEARN FROM IT.
IF NOT, THEN I'D RATHER JUST STAY DEAD.
IF I'M TO BE REBORN...I'D REALLY LIKE IT IF THAT DEFECT COULD BE CORRECTED, IF EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

I DON'T WANT A REALIST FOR A GOD...
BECAUSE THEY HAVE GOOD WELFARE PROGRAMS.
WHY ARE YOU SO STUCK ON SWEDEN?
MITSUO.
YOU WILL BE REINCARNATED AS THE SECOND-BORN SON OF A FARMING FAMILY IN BLEKINGE, SWEDEN.
BUB
BUB
BUB
FYOOOPOP
ARE THERE ANY CRIMES OR REGRETS YOU WISH TO CONFESS? I SHALL ABSOLVE YOU OF EVERY-THING.
LAY BARE YOUR LIFE'S KARMA.
NOW FOR YOU, WOMAN.
WHEN DID I SAY ANY-THING...
...ABOUT WANTING TO BE AB-SOLVED?

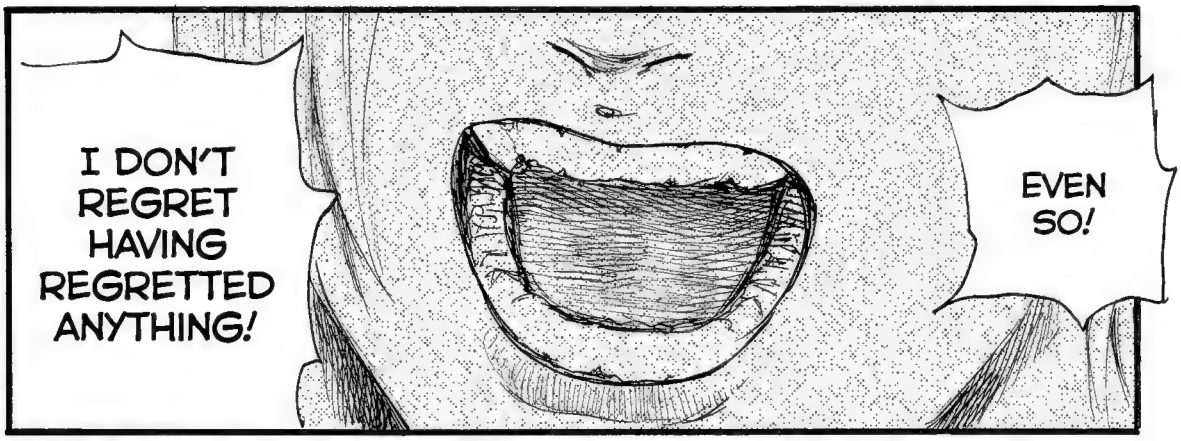
IS IT REALLY OKAY...
...TO JUST QUIETLY HAVE MY SINS PARDONED...
...AND START OVER IN THE NEXT LIFE AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED?
I KILLED A MAN TODAY!
OVER A MEASLY 500,000 YEN!
DOESN'T MURDER MEAN SERVING YOUR SENTENCE ONLY TO BE BRANDED A KILLER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AFTER BEING RELEASED?!

*APPROX. ¢5,000

I REGRET AS NATURALLY AS I BREATHE...
REGRETS, YOU SAY?
TRY EVERY MINUTE OF EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY.


HOW I BITCHED ABOUT ALL OF IT TO A HOT OLDER DUDE I JUST MET AT A BAR!
Now for you, wom
Are there any crime
wish to confess? I s
of everything.
Minare: *Adlib from here on, b t make s
yell your name (real) at the
then fade out.
SE – Lightning
SE – Distant
HOW I LENT HIM MONEY!
HOW I DATED A MAN WHO CAN'T TELL RIGHT FROM WRONG!
you

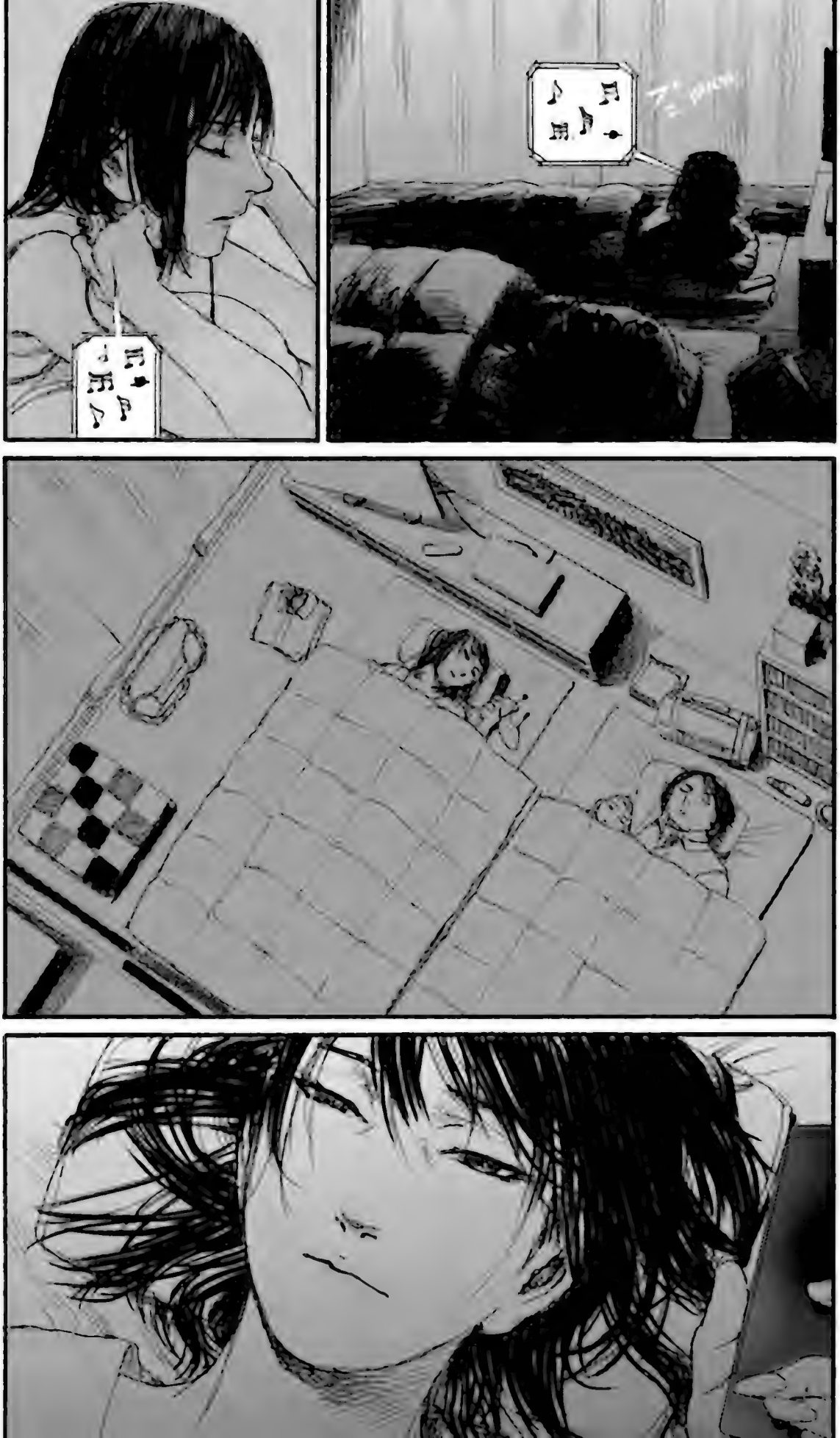
I CAN HARDLY GO TEN SECONDS AFTER DOING ANYTHING BEFORE REGRETTING IT!
HOW I RETURNED ANOTHER COWORKER'S CRITICISM WITH MORE SARCASM!
HOW I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO HURT A COWORKER WHO HAS A CRUSH ON ME!
HOW I FORCED MY WAY INTO A STRANGER'S HOME WHILE DRUNK!


I DON'T REGRET HAVING REGRETTED ANYTHING!
EVEN SO!

WERE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?!
MINARE, YOU WILL BE REIN-CARNATED IN SWEDEN AS...
I MERELY WANT TO MAKE AMENDS!
NOR DO I WANT TO ERASE THE PAST!
I DON'T WISH I COULD REDO THINGS,

PFF
ENOUGH ABOUT SWEDEN! OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY FOR THAT MATTER!
SEND ME BACK TO THE AOKI-GAHARA FOREST OF JAPAN!
THEY DO HAVE THE WORLD'S MOST STINKY CANNED GOOD.
SERIOUS-LY?! WELL, MAYBE I'LL GO THEN... IS THAT WHAT YOU EXPECT ME TO SAY?!
THERE'S NO HAM FIGHTERS, TAKA AND TOSHI, OR DOWNTOWN THERE, RIGHT?!
AND ANOTHER THING, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE SOME-WHERE EVEN COLD-ER THAN KUSHIRO!
IF YOU DON'T, THEN I'LL KILL YOU, TOO!
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF MT. FUJI BLOWS UP!
UNTIL THE DAY I DIE, I'LL CONTINUE TO BE THE AIMLESS JAPANESE WOMAN, MINARE KODA!

カ!
CRASH
ガラララ
CRACKLE
ザアアアア…
HSSSSSS
ゴロゴロ
GRRRRRRRR
ゴロゴロ
GRRRRRRRR
HISS
GRRR GRRR



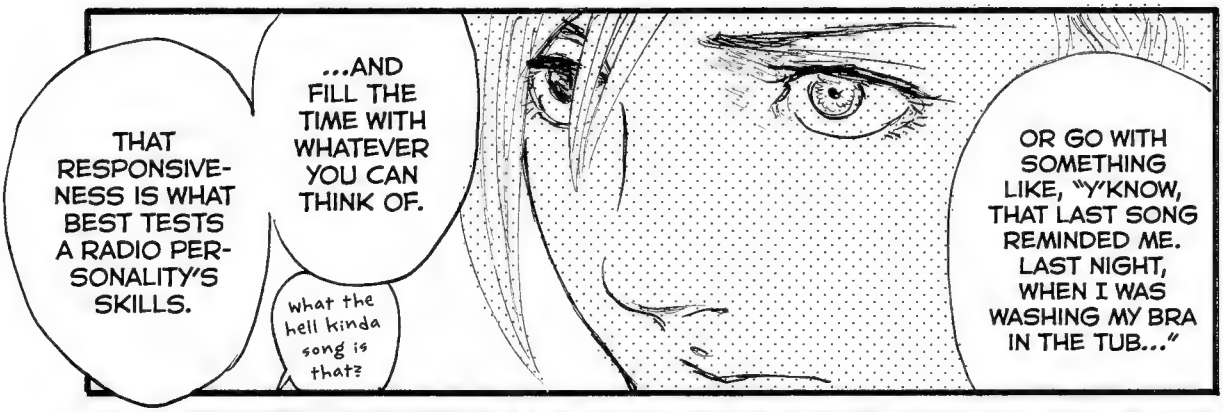
Chapter 08 「IT'S MY DUTY.」

HAVING DONE TWO SHOWS NOW, ONE REALIZATION I'VE HAD...
...IS THAT FOR SOME REASON OR OTHER, KUREKO-SAN SEEMS TO HAVE IT OUT FOR ME.
...OUT FOR ME, I SAY!

IS THIS MASAYUKI SHUNO'S *BLACK BUDDHA* OR SOMETHING?!
AND THE STORY IS ALWAYS SO SLAPDASH AND TAKES AN OCCULT TURN EVERY TIME FOR SOME REASON.
I CAN TELL!
ONLY MY PARTS OF THE SCRIPT ARE HALF BLANK!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
BUT THE RECEPTION HAS BEEN GOOD, JUST LOOKING AT THE STATION'S FORUMS.
WELL, BOTH SHOWS HAVE BEEN SET UP LIKE BROADCAST ACCIDENTS, SO IT'S PROBABLY FUN TO LISTEN TO IN THAT REGARD...
HMPH!
TRYING TO APPEASE ME WITH SWEETS, ARE YOU?
PEEL PEEL
YOU'RE SURE QUICK TO TEAR OFF THE PLASTIC.
THERE AREN'T MANY STORES THAT OPEN AT NINE IN THE MORNING.
THESE ARE FROM SATO CONFECTIONS, RIGHT?
I'LL DISH THEM OUT AT RANDOM, SO TRADE AMONGST YOURSELVES.
KUREKO-SAN BROUGHT THESE IN.

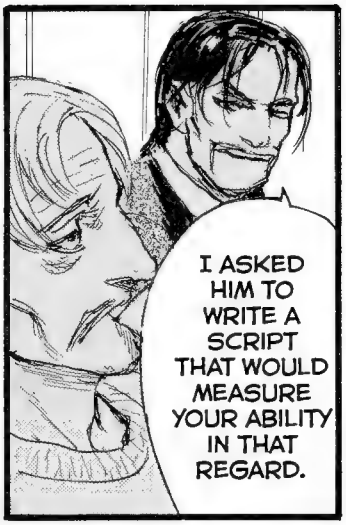
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILL FOR A RADIO PERSONALITY TO HAVE IS?
MINARE.
...WHAT'S MOST CRUCIAL IS RESPONSIVENESS.
plus they aren't really skills.
FOR PERSONALITIES...
THAT APPLIES TO ANY JOB THAT INVOLVES VOICE.
HUH? ARTICULATION OR VOLUME CONTROL, I GUESS?
IF YOU MESS UP ON THE AIR AND DELAY IN PUTTING ON THE NEXT SONG.
FOR EXAMPLE,
RESPONSIVENESS?

...YOU CAN PANIC AND SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "HUH? THAT'S ODD. JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE,"
IN THOSE KINDS OF SITUATIONS...
OR IF THE SHOW STARTS AND THE GUEST YOU HAD LINED UP HASN'T SHOWED UP FOR WHATEVER REASON.

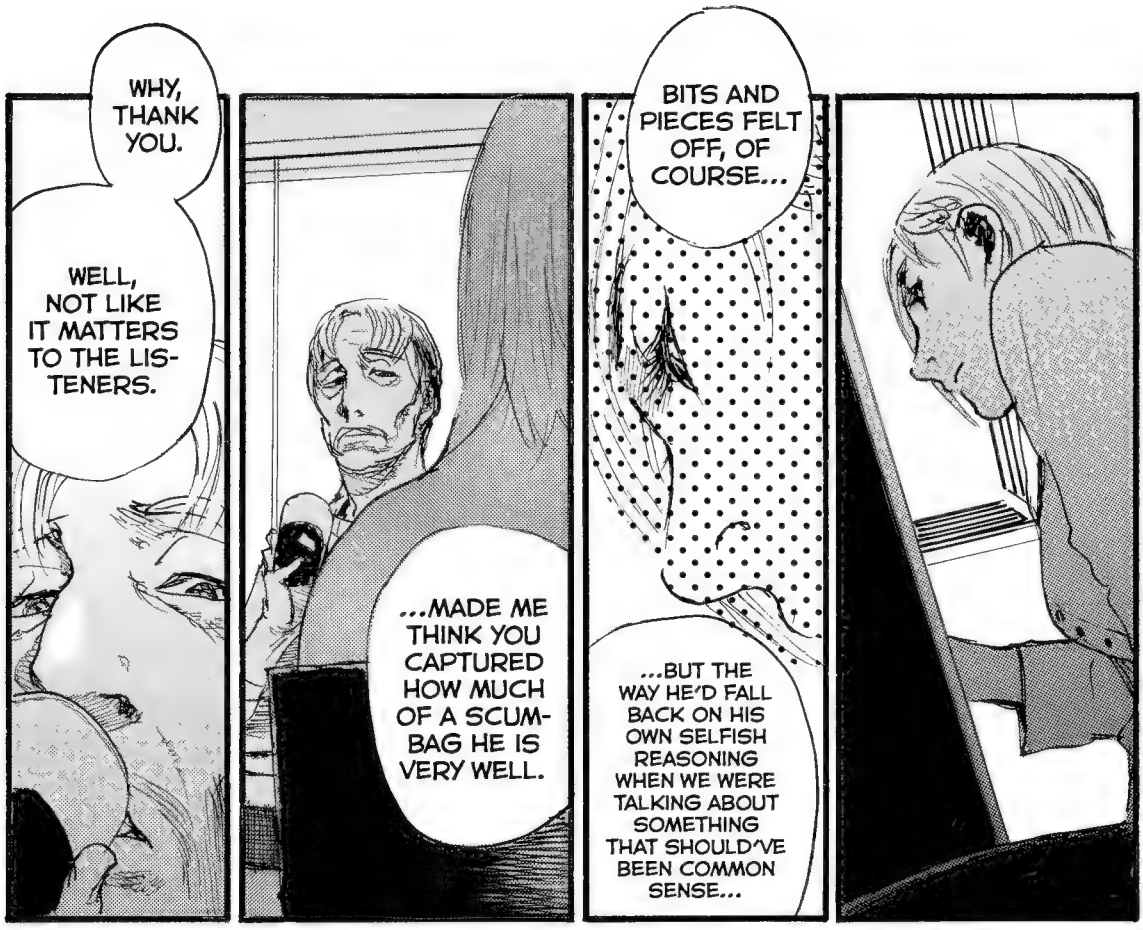

THAT RESPONSIVENESS IS WHAT BEST TESTS A RADIO PERSONALITY'S SKILLS.
...AND FILL THE TIME WITH WHATEVER YOU CAN THINK OF.
what the hell kinda song is that?
OR GO WITH SOMETHING LIKE, "Y'KNOW, THAT LAST SONG REMINDED ME. LAST NIGHT, WHEN I WAS WASHING MY BRA IN THE TUB..."

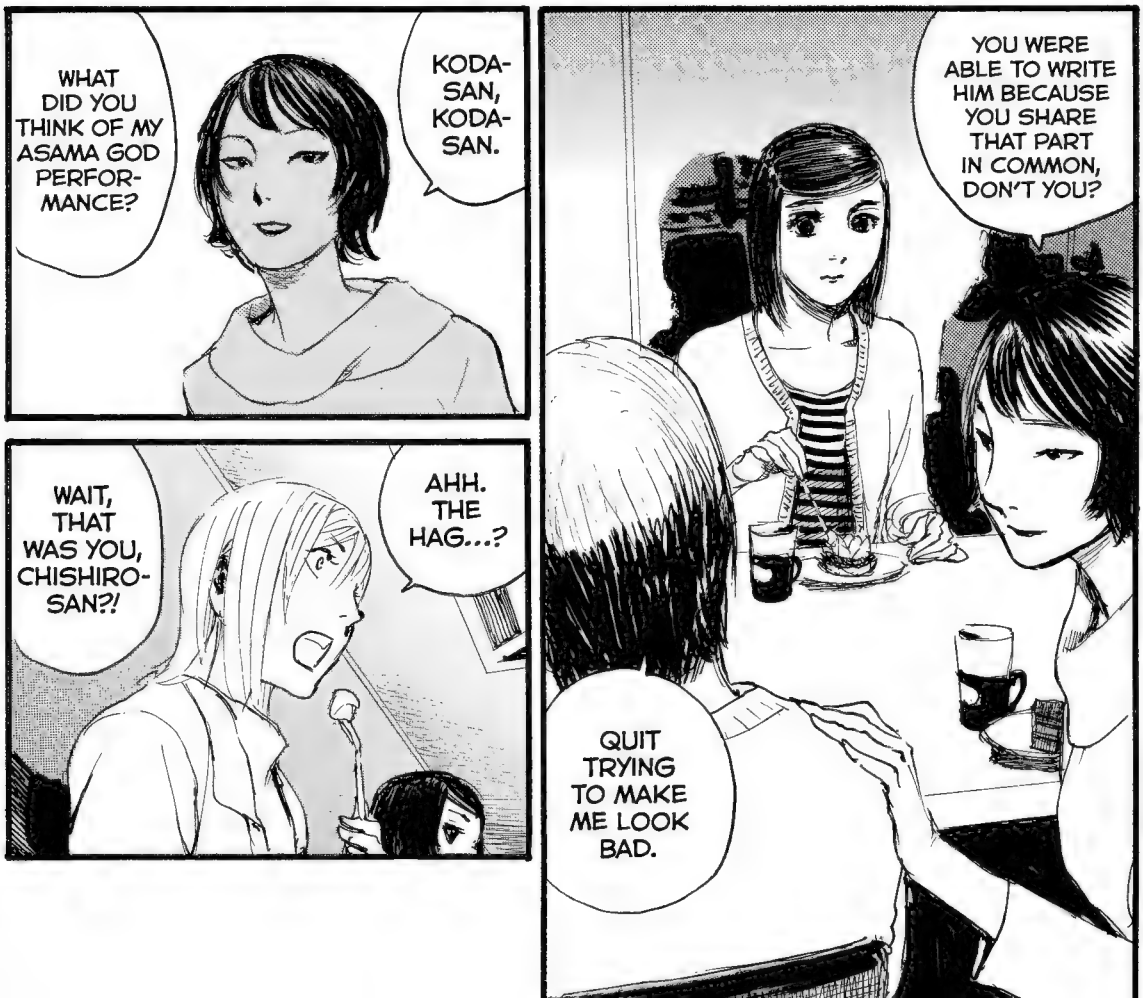
'ZAT SO?!
WELL, NO LOVE HERE, I'M AFRAID.

I SEE...
SO IT'S NOT AS IF THERE WASN'T ANY LOVE PUT INTO IT...


I ASKED HIM TO WRITE A SCRIPT THAT WOULD MEASURE YOUR ABILITY IN THAT REGARD.

I THOUGHT I DID PRETTY WELL IN RECREATING HIM.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DID YOU LIKE MY RENDITION OF MITSUO?


BITS AND PIECES FELT OFF, OF COURSE...
...BUT THE WAY HE'D FALL BACK ON HIS OWN SELFISH REASONING WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN COMMON SENSE...
...MADE ME THINK YOU CAPTURED HOW MUCH OF A SCUMBAG HE IS VERY WELL.
WELL, NOT LIKE IT MATTERS TO THE LISTENERS.
WHY, THANK YOU.


YOU WERE ABLE TO WRITE HIM BECAUSE YOU SHARE THAT PART IN COMMON, DON'T YOU?
QUIT TRYING TO MAKE ME LOOK BAD.
KODA-SAN, KODA-SAN.
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY ASAMA GOD PERFORMANCE?
AHH. THE HAG...?
WAIT, THAT WAS YOU, CHISHIRO-SAN?!

YOU KNOW THAT SOLO BOOTH WE USE FOR NEWS? I WAS RESPONDING FROM THERE WHILE LISTENING TO YOU.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, PARTS OF IT WERE LIKE RESPONSES TO MY ADLIBBING...
PLUS, I WAS SPEAKING LIVE.
SERIOUSLY?!
THAT WASN'T MATO-SAN'S VOICE?!
HUH? 'COURSE NOT.
I MEAN, WE DO HAVE SOFTWARE TO GENDER SWAP VOICES, BUT...
WHAT'RE YOU MAKING ENGINEERS DO?!
AND I DIDN'T DO IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, I'M A MIXER.
UGH... JUST END ME.
MINA-CHAA-AN AND WHAT-NOT...
BY THE WAY...
GEH!
THEY SAID MY VOICE WAS TOO DEEP TO MAKE BELIEVABLE.
...MITSUO'S VOICE WAS MADE USING KOMOTO'S THERE.
BUT WHAT MADE THEM CONSENT TO DO IT IN THE END...
AND CHISHIRO SEEMED FREE SINCE HER POST-SHOW PLANS WERE CANCELED.
WELL, I'M THE ONE WHO PRESSURED KOMOTO TO DO IT.

COULD YOU REALLY CALL THAT CONSENT...?
...WAS BECAUSE THEY FELT SOMETHING AMAZING ABOUT YOU AND YOUR SHOW.
'ZAT SO?!
NO, IT AIN'T ABOUT LOVE. THIS IS WORK.
TO THINK THAT I WAS THIS LOVED...
I HAD NO IDEA...
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA MAKE ME DO NEXT WEEK?
SO, MATO-SAN.

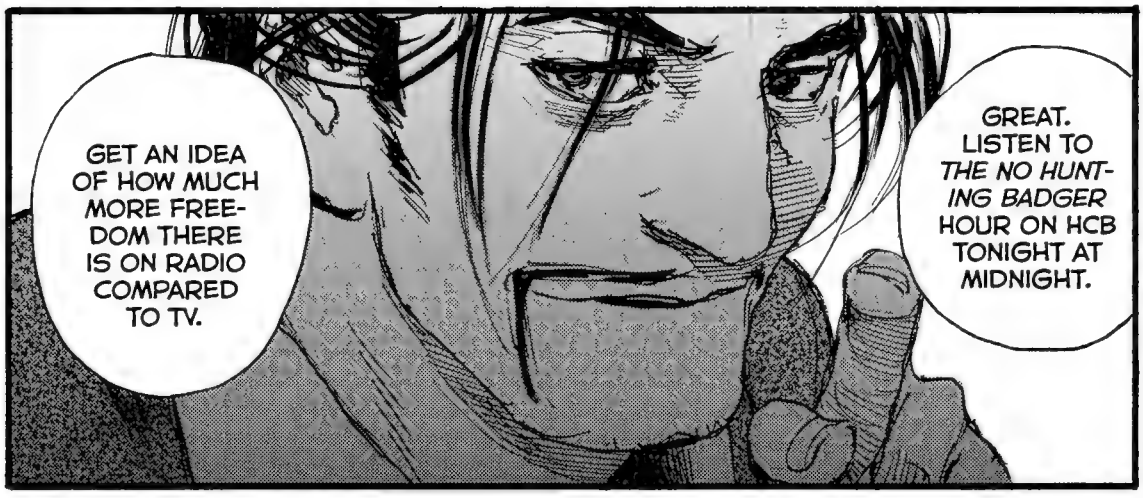
FSHHH
HWAH?!
THE NEXT SHOW'S UP TO YOU.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT.

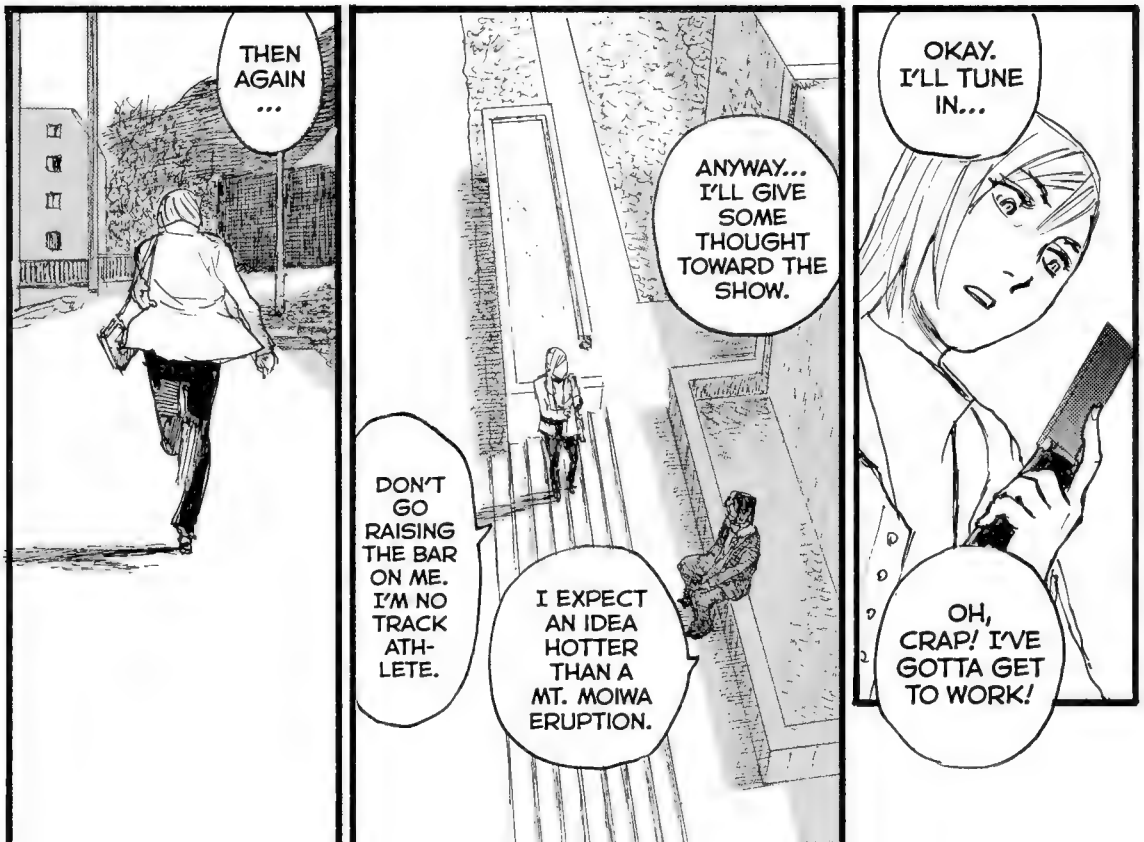
Y'THINK THE NEXT ONE WILL BE SUSPENSE AND SUPER-POWER BATTLE THEMED?
or maybe time travel...
WELL?
IF YOU'RE FINE WITH A STORY FORMAT AGAIN LIKE LAST TIME, THEN I'LL HAVE KUREKO WRITE A SCRIPT.

...IS ROOTED IN THE DIS-TANCE TO THE LISTENERS.
RADIO'S STRENGTH...
REGARDLESS OF WHAT KIND OF SHOW YOU WANT TO MAKE IT, LET ME SAY THIS UP FRONT.
MINARE.

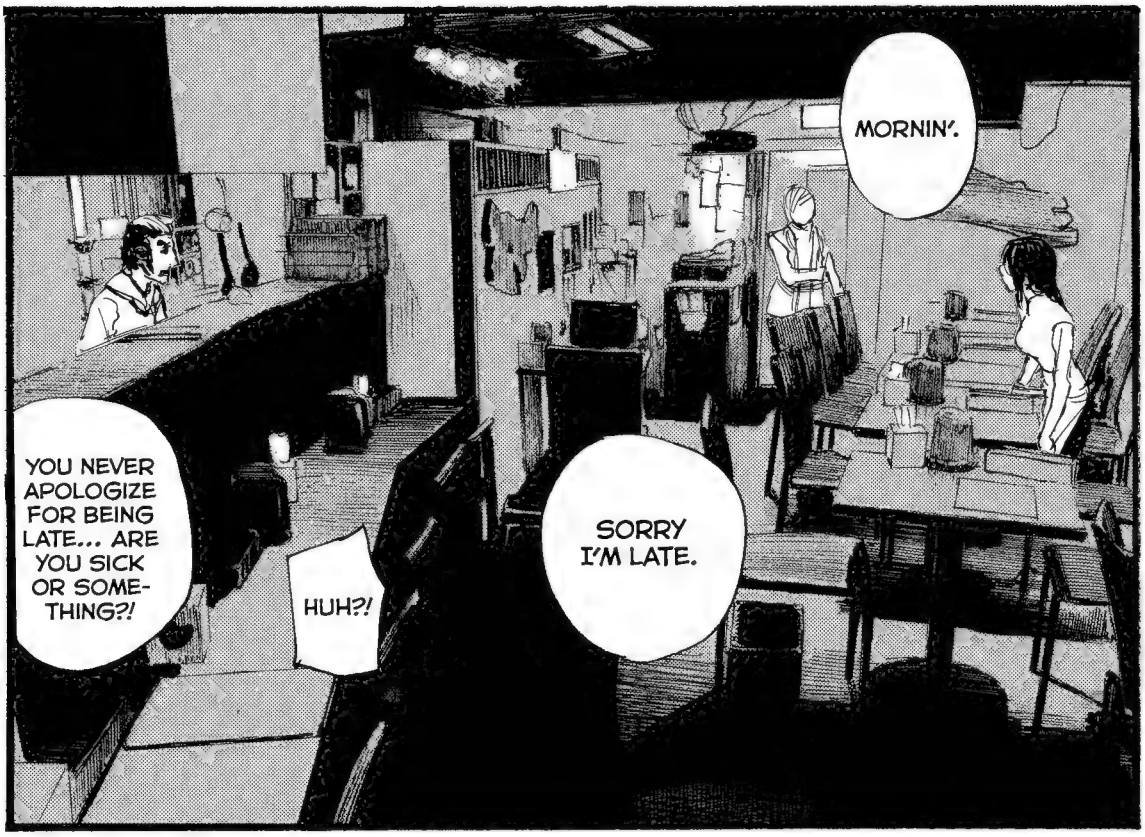
DESPITE COMPOSING THEM WITH AN EMPHASIS ON IMPACT, SHOWS THAT TAKE LISTENERS OUT OF THE EQUATION, LIKE OUR FIRST AND SECOND, DEVIATE FROM RADIO'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IN THAT REGARD.
ARE FIRST DRAWN IN BY THE RADIO PERSONALITY'S TREATMENT OF THEIR LISTENERS.
AS OPPOSED TO PEOPLE TO TUNE IN TO THEIR FAVORITE CELEBRITY'S SHOW, FOLKS WHO JUST LIKE RADIO...
Y'KNOW, I'VE WONDERED SOME-THING FOR A WHILE NOW.
MINARE...
I CAN SEE MYSELF GETTING SUED WITHIN FIVE SHOWS.
WANNA TRY MAKING THOSE SITUA-TIONS HAPPEN MORE?
THAT SORT OF HAPPY ACCI-DENT JUST DOESN'T OCCUR OUTSIDE OF LIVE BROAD-CASTS.
...TAKE WHEN YOU FIRST BARGED IN DURING CHISHIRO'S SHOW, FOR EXAMPLE.
RATHER ...
OH, BUT I DO LISTEN TO WHATEVER MIZUHO-CHAN PUTS ON.
ACTUALLY... ASIDE FROM HAVING IT PLAY ALL THE TIME AT WORK, I NEVER LISTEN TO IT AT HOME.
WA HA HA HA HA!
...HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED TO RADIO BY CHOICE?

ARE THERE ANY CELEBRITIES YOU LIKE?
ASIDE FROM TAKA AND TOSHI...SHUTA UESUGI, I GUESS.
OR BADGER TAIJI.


GREAT. LISTEN TO *THE NO HUNTING BADGER* HOUR ON HCB TONIGHT AT MIDNIGHT.
GET AN IDEA OF HOW MUCH MORE FREEDOM THERE IS ON RADIO COMPARED TO TV.


OKAY. I'LL TUNE IN...
OH, CRAP! I'VE GOTTA GET TO WORK!
ANYWAY... I'LL GIVE SOME THOUGHT TOWARD THE SHOW.
I EXPECT AN IDEA HOTTER THAN A MT. MOIWA ERUPTION.
DON'T GO RAISING THE BAR ON ME. I'M NO TRACK ATHLETE.
THEN AGAIN ...

THE FACT THAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT RADIO MIGHT BE HER BIGGEST STRENGTH.
HA HA...


MORNIN'.
SORRY I'M LATE.
HUH?!
YOU NEVER APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE... ARE YOU SICK OR SOME-THING?!

DID YOU LISTEN TO MY SECOND SHOW, NAKA-HARA-KUN?
BUT OF COURSE.
I TUNED IN, TOO.

*A JAPANESE BLOCKBUSTER THAT WAS VERY POORLY RECEIVED.

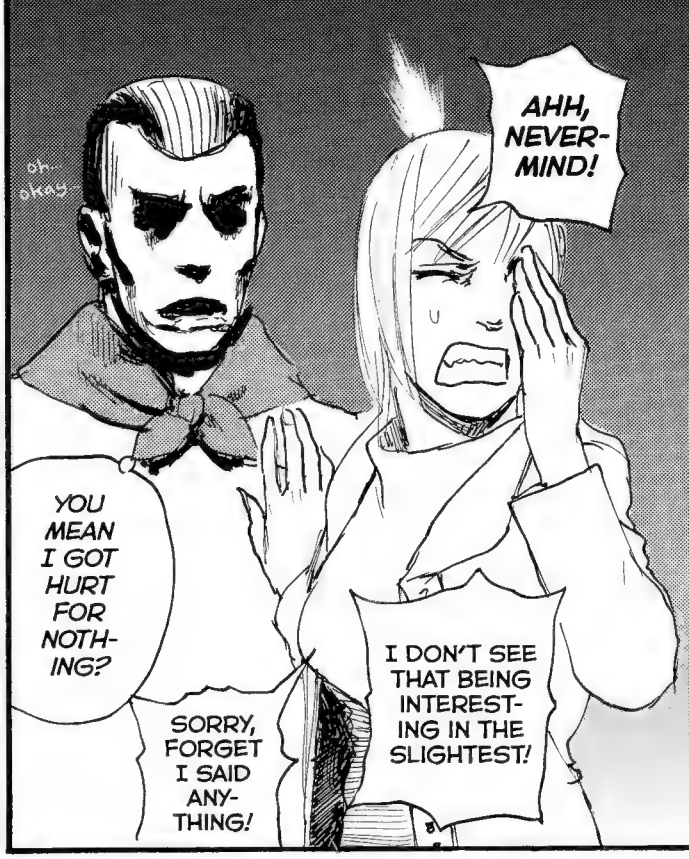
*REFERENCE TO THE OPERATING SYSTEM, WINDOWS.

ANYWAY, I JUST FEEL LIKE I'M NOT THE SAME PERSON I USED TO BE.
THE PLACEBO EFFECT?
AFTER SEEING THAT LUDICROUS SCENARIO TO THE END...WHAT DO YOU CALL IT? THE POWER OF WORDS?
I HEADLINE MY OWN SHOW STARTING NEXT WEEK.
DESPITE THAT, MY INCOME'S STILL UNSTABLE, SO I HAVE A TON TO THINK ABOUT.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I CAN'T LET MYSELF GET BOGGED DOWN BY THAT IDIOT FOREVER.
MITSUO!
TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ...
...didn't you refuse and just leave?
As I seem to recall, when given the option to be reborn...
...MUST MEAN SHE CAN'T ERASE THOSE FEELINGS OTHERWISE.
THE FACT THAT SHE'S BOTHERING TO DECLARE THAT OUT LOUD...
THEREFORE, I HEREBY DECLARE THAT...
...FROM NOW ON, I WILL ACT AS IF I NEVER HAD AN EX-BOYFRIEND IN THE FIRST PLACE!
...SINCE I'VE DELETED HIS EMAIL ADDRESS AND BLOCKED HIS NUMBER...

...COULD BE INTERPRETED AS HER SAYING, "I'M READY TO RESPOND TO YOUR FEELINGS," RIGHT?
*OPTIMISTIC RELATIONSHIP DELUSIONS
All right.
m'kay. I'm gonna go get changed.
...THE FACT THAT SHE MADE THAT DECLARATION TO MY FACE...
THEN AGAIN...
HUH?!
...WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN GOING ON THE AIR WITH ME?
YES! HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?!
Mystery Dash
THIS IS JUST AN IDEA, BUT...
OH, YEAH.
NAKAHARA-KUN, GOT A SEC?
THAT BEING SAID, I'M SHORT ON TIME, SO I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD BORROW YOUR HELP...
...AND DO A SEGMENT ON UNEXPECTED SPICES USED IN THE SHOP, OR SECRET MENU ITEMS PEOPLE CAN ORDER...
"...IT MIGHT BE UNCOUTH OF ME TO DRAFT UP A PLAN FOR THE SHOW EVERY TIME."
YOU SURE YOU CAUGHT THE RIGHT NUANCE OF WHAT HE SAID?
WITH MY THIRD BROADCAST COMING UP, THE DIRECTOR FINALLY TOLD ME,
"WITH SOMEONE OF YOUR TALENT..."

THAT'S RIGHT! I'M LOOKING FOR HOT IDEAS! SOMETHING ON PAR WITH A MT. MOIWA ERUPTION!
YOU'RE TRYING TO THINK OF A SHOW PLAN?

HUH?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING THE LISTENERS?

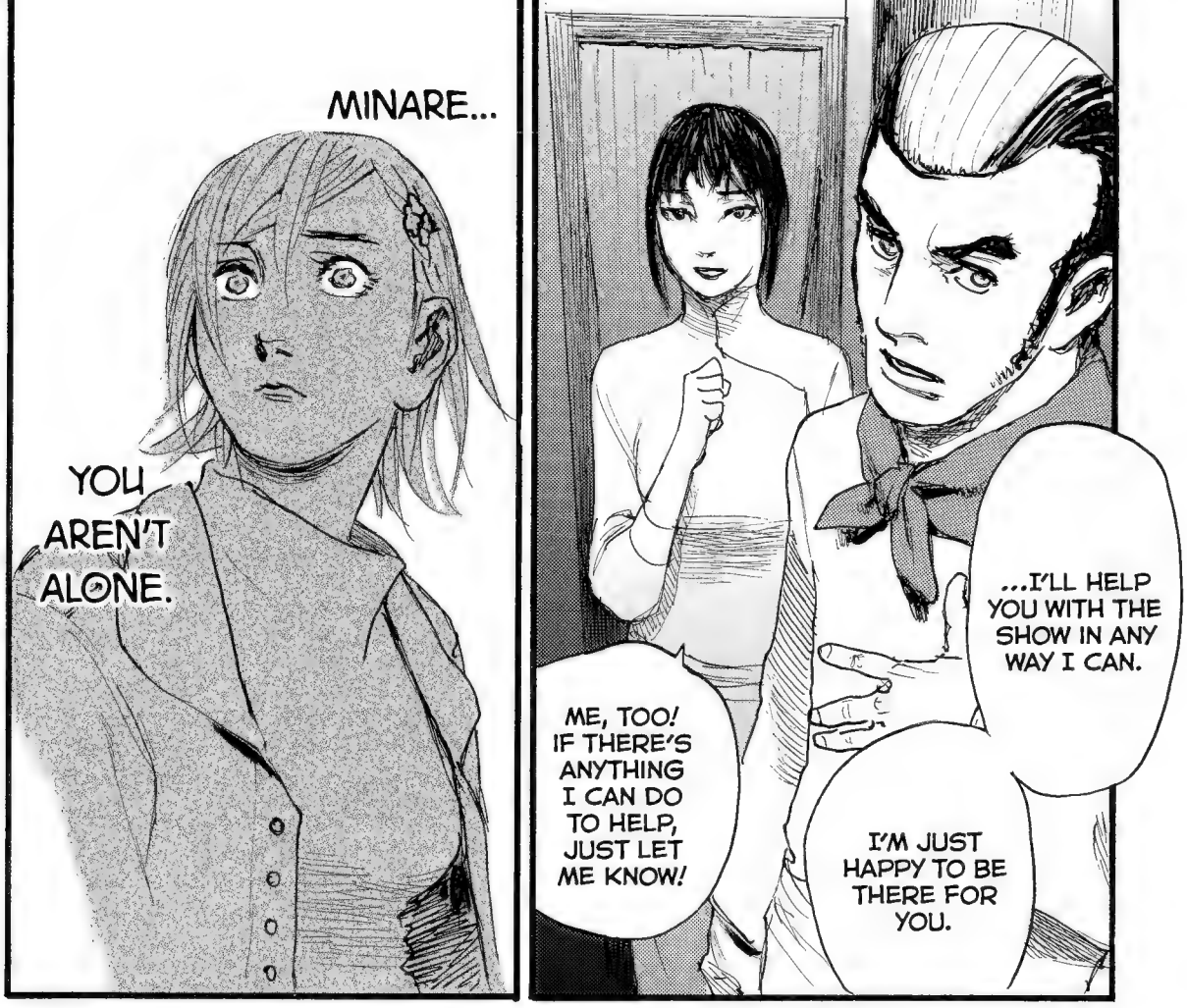

oh... okay...
AHH, NEVER-MIND!
YOU MEAN I GOT HURT FOR NOTH-ING?
SORRY, FORGET I SAID ANY-THING!
I DON'T SEE THAT BEING INTEREST-ING IN THE SLIGHTEST!

AND USE THE MES-SAGE FIELD TO LOOK FOR IDEAS FROM THE PUBLIC.
YOU COULD ASK THEM TO MAKE AN ENTRY FOR YOU...
THERE'S A SPOT FOR MESSAGES FROM DJS ON THE IN-TRODUCTION PAGE OF MRS'S OFFICIAL SITE.

I haven't even looked at it yet.
HUH?! GOOD CALL, TACHI-BANA-SAN!
OH, YOU KNOW...I WAS JUST CURIOUS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT PAGE, ANYWAY?

OHH-HH!
...OHH.

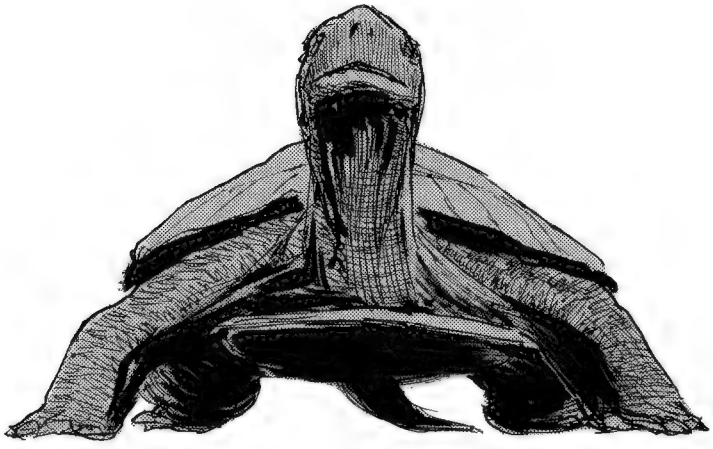
NO WAY!
I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT, BUT THINK ABOUT IT...
OH, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. KODA-SAN HAS A LOT OF FANS, AFTER ALL.
WHILE WE'RE AT IT, WE COULD ALWAYS THROW SOMETHING UP ON VOYAGER'S HOMEPAGE, TOO.
It seems you want to die, hm?
BUT! IF I LEAVE ANY TRACE OF USING THE HOMEPAGE TO LOOK FOR SHOW IDEAS...
...IT'LL ALL HAVE BEEN FOR NOTHING!
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE IT WASN'T FROM THE GET-GO.
MY CAUSE WILL NO LONGER BE JUST!
THE ONLY REASON I'M WORKING HERE...
...PARTLY BECAUSE I CAN'T LIVE OFF OF RADIO ALONE, SURE...
...BUT ALSO TO SCRATCH THE OWNER'S BACK WHILE HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL...
AND HOPEFULLY GET HIM TO RETHINK FIRING ME.
THIS CHICK'S HONEST TO A FAULT...
...BUT CONSIDERING HOW FAR THINGS HAVE COME ALONG...
AT ANY RATE, MINARE-SAN. I KNOW I SAID ALL THAT IN THE BEGINNING...



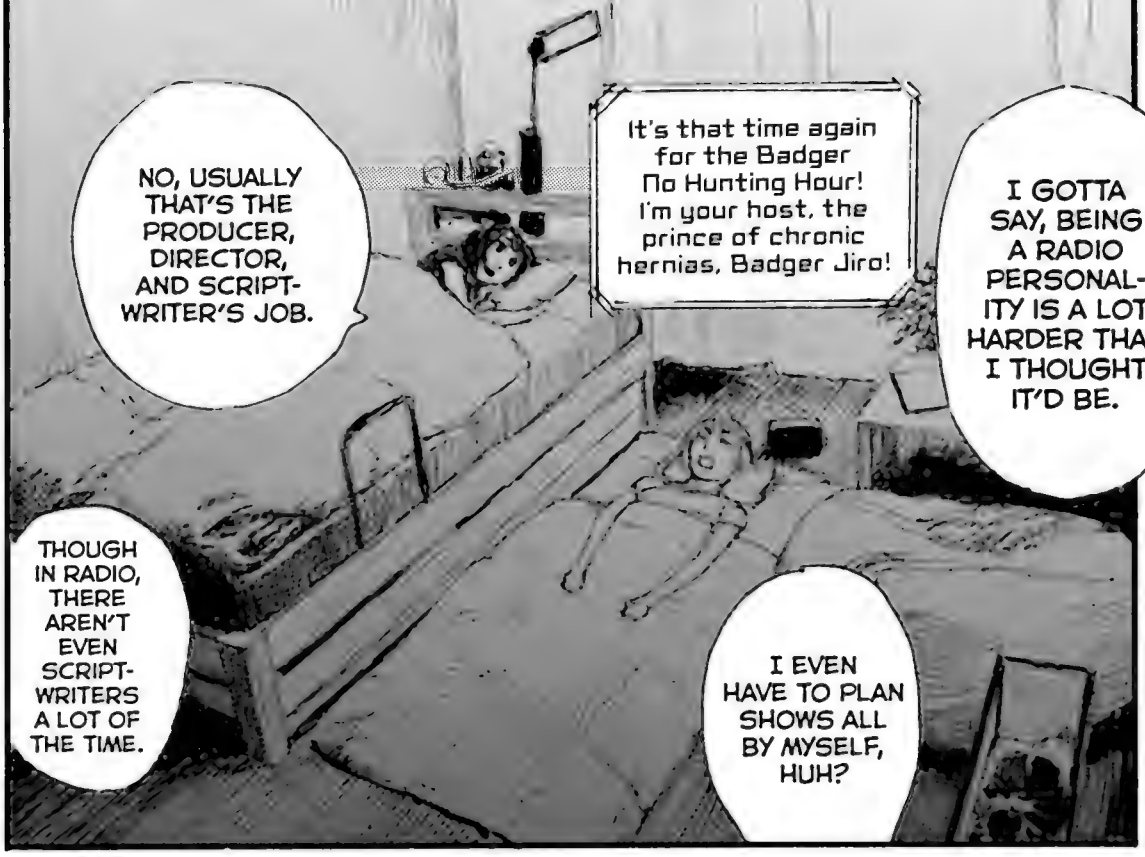
ALL YOU NEED TO BE IS A COORDINATOR WHO CAN SKILLFULLY ARRANGE SUCH PIECES INTO A MOSAIC MEANT TO PLEASE YOUR AUDIENCE.

THE EXPERIENCES OF YOUR FRIENDS, THE WORKS OF ARTISTS, THE WORDS OF THE LISTENERS...

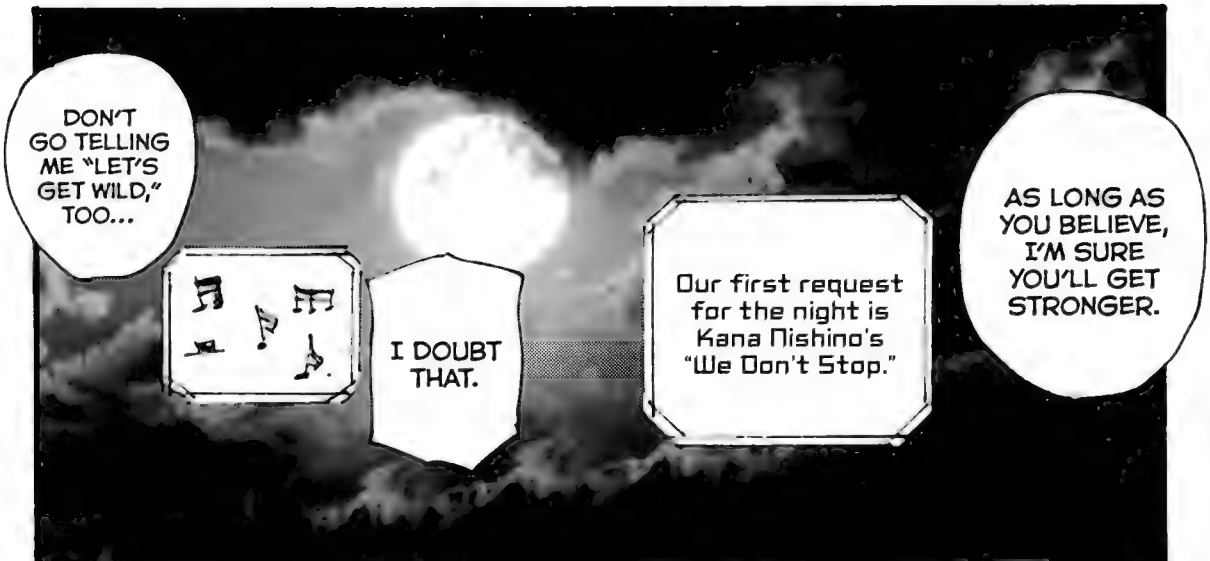
RADIO HOSTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM COMEDIANS. THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH ON YOUR EFFORTS ALONE.



OKYUHON IS SEVEN!
HOW OLD IS THAT TURTLE?
I'D PREFER MY LECTURES TO COME FROM SOMEONE OLDER THAN ME...
YOU MUSTN'T FORGET YOUR DREAMS ...
GUHHH... THIS IS ROUGH.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I GOT UP AT NINE, SOLD CURRY ALL DAY, WAS ON THE RADIO UNTIL FOUR IN THE MORNING...
...THEN WENT BACK TO THE STATION AT NINE FOR A REVIEW MEETING, THEN BACK TO SELLING CURRY UNTIL 11 AT NIGHT...
Neo Need-sleep Minare Koda...
C'MON! I'LL LAY OUT THE FUTON, SO GO HOP IN THE SHOWER.
LET'S JUST RECORD THE SHOW AND LISTEN TO IT TOMORROW.
YOU'RE AMAZING, MIZUHO. YOU WORK JUST AS MUCH, IF NOT MORE THAN ME...
I CAN BARELY KEEP MY EYES OPEN!
...AND NOW HERE I AM GETTING READY TO LISTEN TO THE RADIO UNTIL ONE IN THE MORNING.


It's that time again for the Badger No Hunting Hour! I'm your host, the prince of chronic hernias, Badger Jiro!
I GOTTA SAY, BEING A RADIO PERSONALITY IS A LOT HARDER THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE.
NO, USUALLY THAT'S THE PRODUCER, DIRECTOR, AND SCRIPTWRITER'S JOB.
THOUGH IN RADIO, THERE AREN'T EVEN SCRIPTWRITERS A LOT OF THE TIME.
I EVEN HAVE TO PLAN SHOWS ALL BY MYSELF, HUH?

SHOULD I HAVE KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT?
OOPS...
FOR REAL?!
THAT JUST SHOWS HOW MUCH MATO-SAN BELIEVES IN YOU, MINARE-SAN!

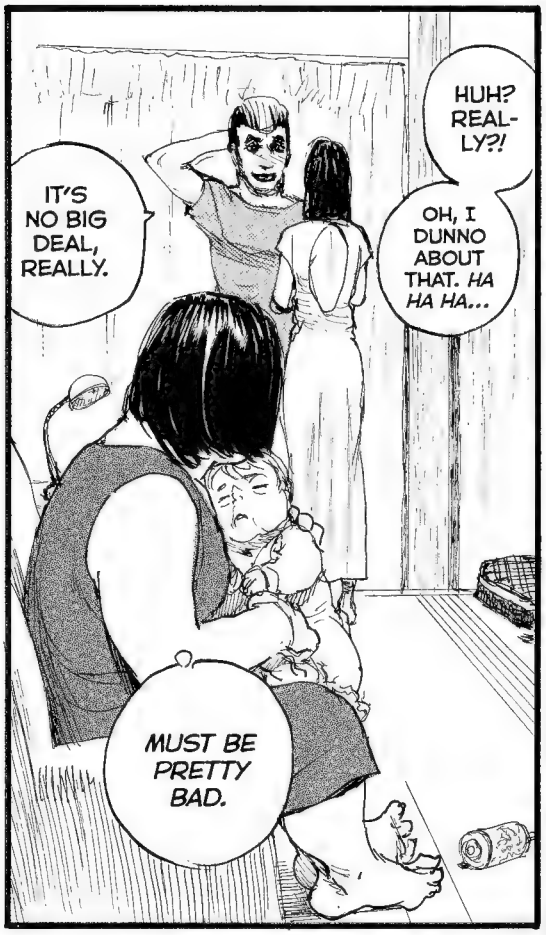

DON'T GO TELLING ME "LET'S GET WILD," TOO...
I DOUBT THAT.
Our first request for the night is Kana Nishino's "We Don't Stop."
AS LONG AS YOU BELIEVE, I'M SURE YOU'LL GET STRONGER.

UWAH!
UWAH!
I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THE CRYING...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
BUKKH
M'KAY! ALL DONE.
MIND TAKING A LOOK AT THIS?
?
I TRIED THINKING UP SOME IDEAS FOR MINARE'S SHOW.
AND HERE I THOUGHT HE WAS STUDYING MANAGE-MENT...
GOT A SEC, TACHI-BANA-SAN?

FLAP 11°

FLAP 110°

W-WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK?


IT'S NO BIG DEAL, REALLY.
HUH? REAL-LY?!
OH, I DUNNO ABOUT THAT. HA HA HA...
MUST BE PRETTY BAD.

I CAN TELL THAT...
...YOU'RE A VERY EARNEST AND GOOD PERSON, NAKAHARA-SAN.

Chapter 19 I'll WANT TO WARM YOU!

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOOK SO DOWN BEFORE.
...I'M SUR-PRISED.

YOUR COMRADE IN ARMS IS GOING OFF TO WAR... I WISH YOU'D SEE ME OFF WITH A SMILE.
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS GOODBYE FOREVER.

I'M EXCITED. I'VE NEVER BEEN OVER-SEAS BEFORE.
I'LL BE SURE TO WATCH... WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?

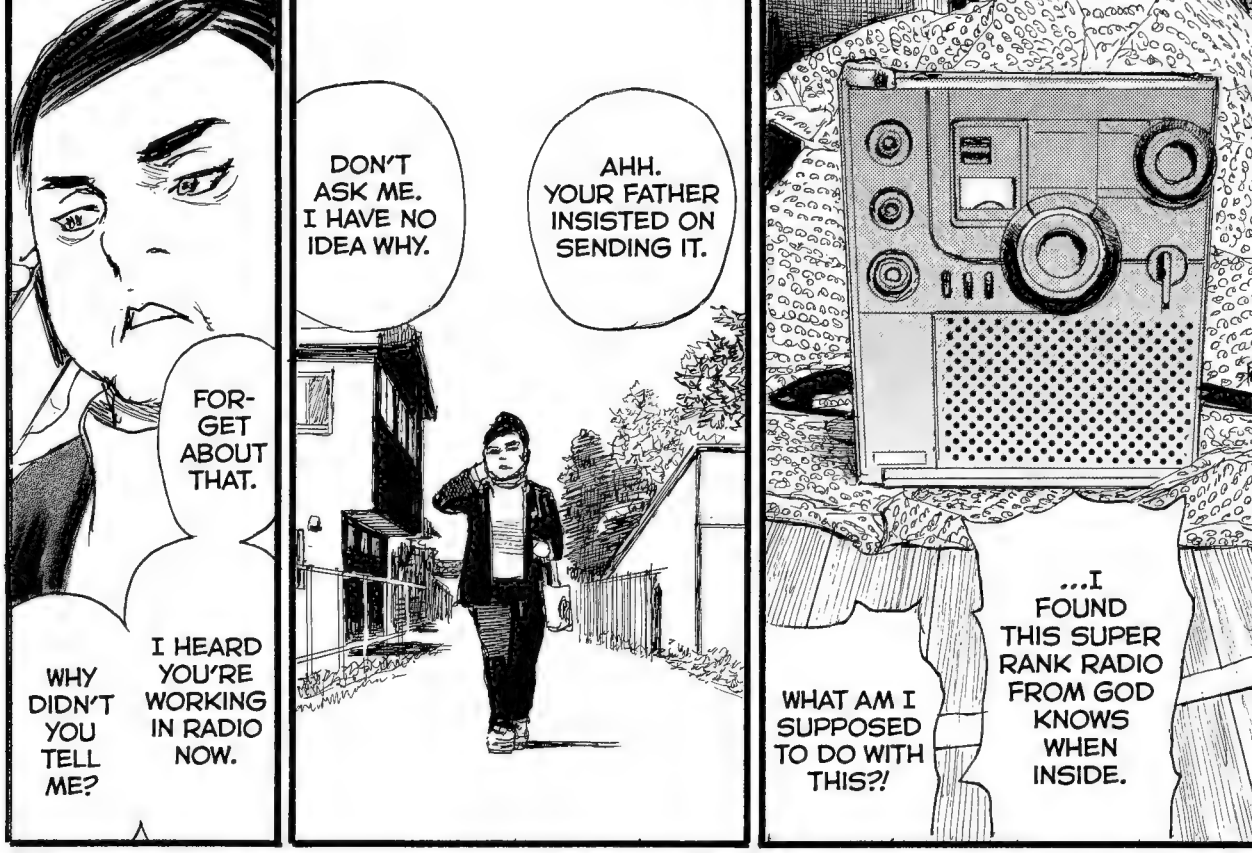
OH, YEAH. MONTY PYTHON.
IT'S ON BBC, BUT I HEARD IT'S GOING TO BE AIRED IN JAPAN SOON, TOO.

OKAY. I SHOULD GET GOING.
YOU'D BETTER USE THAT, YOU HEAR? I SPENT ALL OF MY NEW YEAR'S BONUS ON IT.
IT'S THE NEWEST VER-SION THAT JUST CAME OUT. IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARD FOR YOU TO USE.

AS USUAL, YOU NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE FEEL.
THE REASON I LOOK SO DOWN...

...AND THAT YOU'RE EVENTUALLY GOING TO FALL VICTIM TO A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT AT YOUR DESTINATION.
...IS BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THIS IS A DREAM FROM DECADES AGO...
PLEASE STOP SENDING THINGS I CAN'T FIT IN THE FRIDGE... AHH, SO IT WAS DAD? MAN, THIS IS WHY SHOWA-ERA GEEZERS ARE SUCH A PAIN.
YEAH! THE SALTED SALMON!
FOUR WHOLE FISH, NO LESS!

MY COWORKER SAID HE'D TAKE ONE, BUT... NO! LIKE I JUST SAID...
...I CAN'T DUMP THEM ON MY NEIGH-BORS WHEN I KNOW THEY WON'T FIT IN THE FRIDGE, RIGHT?
CHILLED MUTTON OR SOMETHING WOULD'VE BEEN WAY BETTER!
...HUH? YOU SENT MEAT TWO YEARS AGO? REALLY? OH...
WANT ME TO HOOK UP THE TV?
YEAH, THANKS. THE DVD PLAYER, TOO, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
WHERE WAS I? ANYWAY, NO MORE SALMON, OKAY?
OH, AND ...
...THERE WAS THIS HUGE LUMP OF PACKING, AND WHEN I OPENED IT UP...


WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
I HEARD YOU'RE WORKING IN RADIO NOW.
FOR-GET ABOUT THAT.
DON'T ASK ME. I HAVE NO IDEA WHY.
AHH. YOUR FATHER INSISTED ON SENDING IT.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS?!
...I FOUND THIS SUPER RANK RADIO FROM GOD KNOWS WHEN INSIDE.

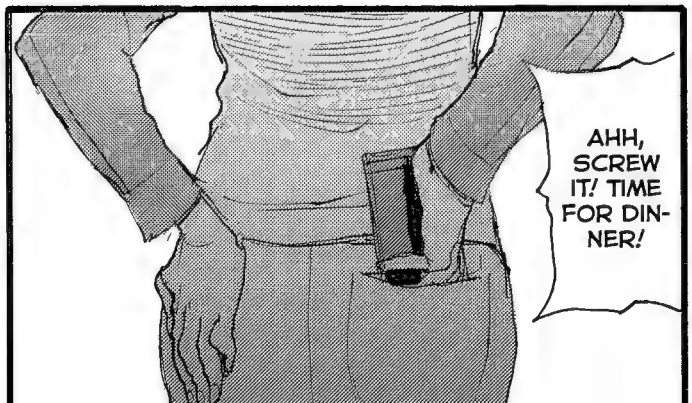
HEY, HE DIDN'T HEAR IT FROM ME!
But you told your father... Ahh, how sad. Mama's so sad, dear.
WELL...IT'S NOT REALLY A JOB I CAN BOAST ABOUT. THE PAY'S...
NOT REALLY UP TO LABOR STAN-DARDS.

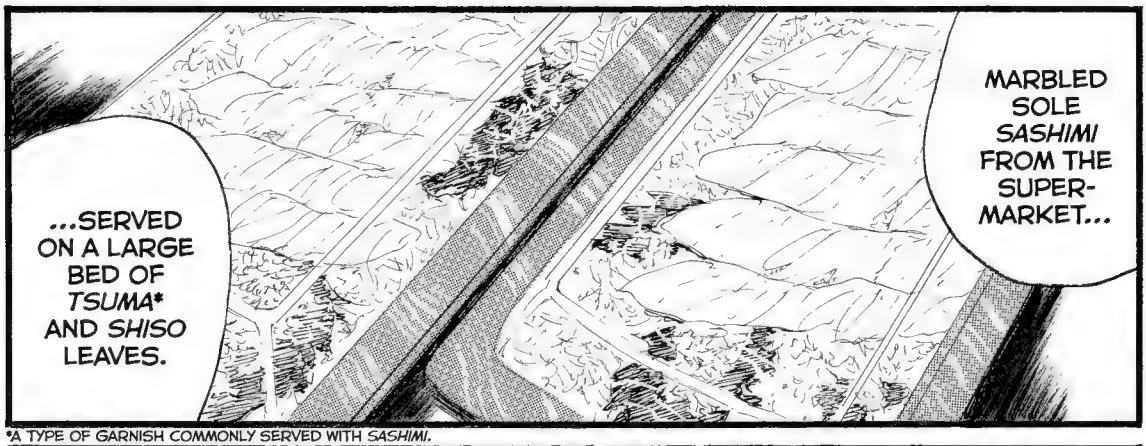
MINARE.
HO HO HO...
AHH. THAT SOUNDS LIKE HIM.
WHAT WAS IT...? "THE MOST IMPORT-ANT THING IS BEING A LAUGHING-STOCK," OR SOMETHING.
Did your father say any-thing?

LIVE IN A WAY THAT WILL MAKE OTHERS PROUD OF YOU. UNDERSTAND?
YOU MUSTN'T TAKE ANYTHING THAT LOWLIFES SAY SERIOUSLY.

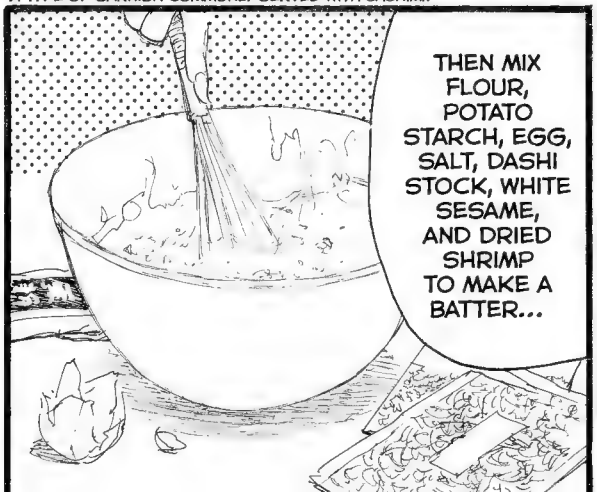
I HOOKED UP THE TV AND DVD PLAYER, BUT YOUR REMOTE'S OUTTA BATTERIES.
OH, THANKS. I'LL BUY SOME LATER.

...MY HEART'S GRUMBLING.

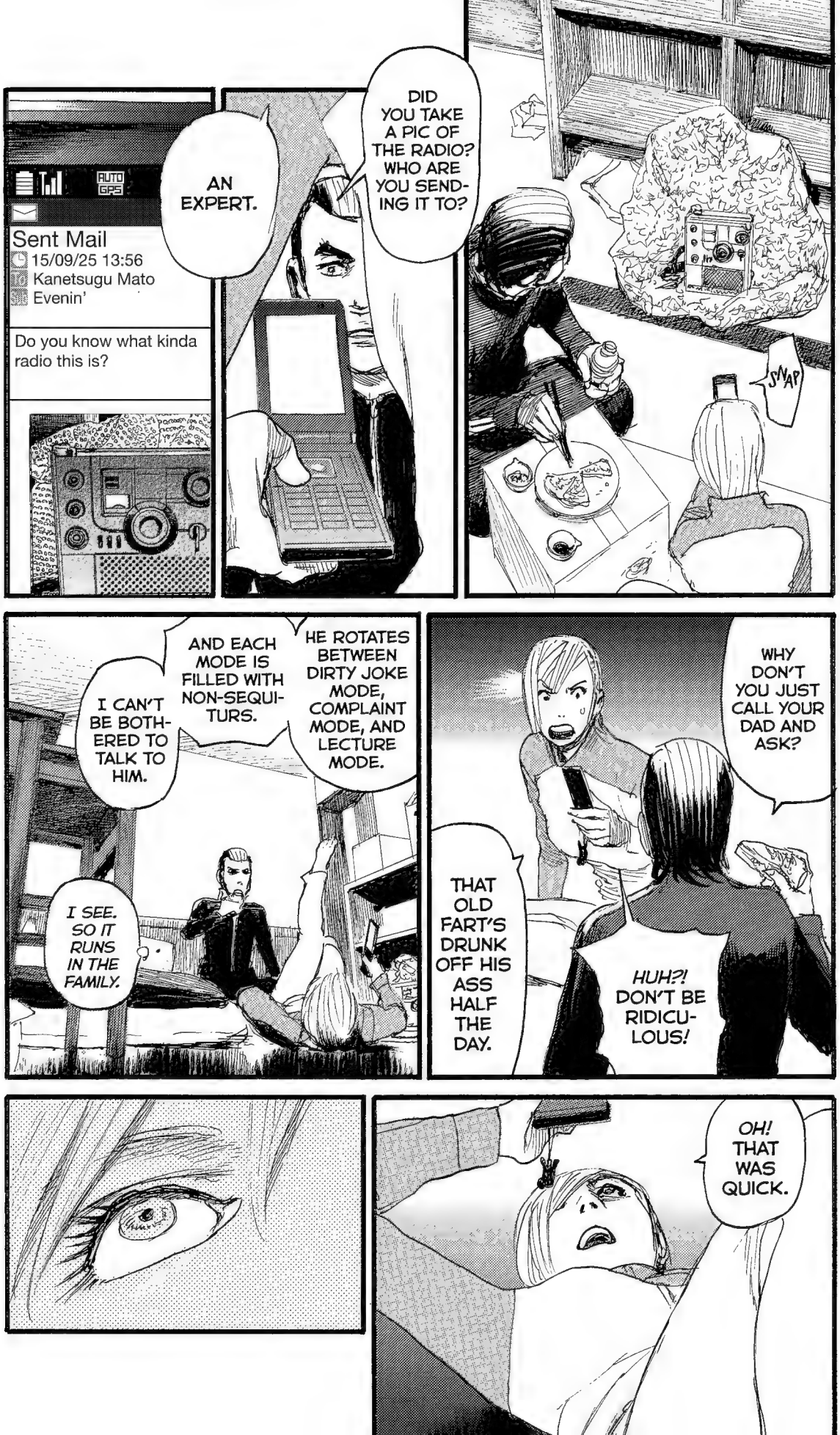

AHH, SCREW IT! TIME FOR DINNER!



*A TYPE OF GARNISH COMMONLY SERVED WITH *SASHIMI*.

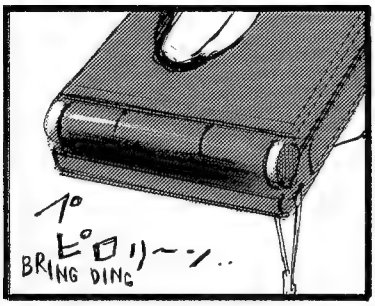


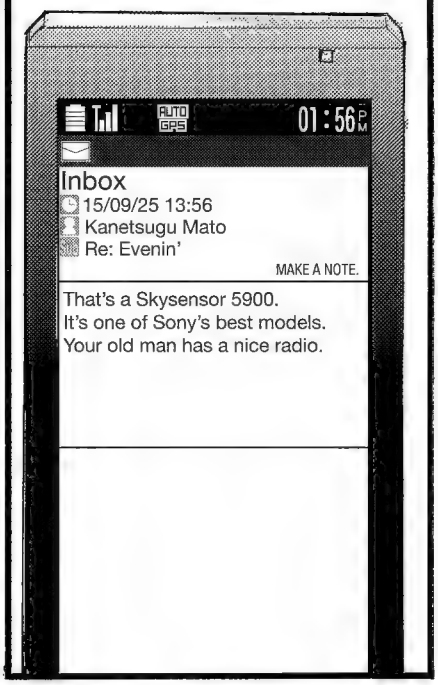
*A SPICY KOREAN CONDIMENT CHILI AND SOYBEANS.


AUTO GPS
Sent Mail
15/09/25 13:56
Kanetsugu Mato
Evenin'
Do you know what kinda radio this is?
AN EXPERT.
DID YOU TAKE A PIC OF THE RADIO? WHO ARE YOU SENDING IT TO?
SNAP
I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO TALK TO HIM.
AND EACH MODE IS FILLED WITH NON-SEQUITURS.
HE ROTATES BETWEEN DIRTY JOKE MODE, COMPLAINT MODE, AND LECTURE MODE.
I SEE. SO IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL YOUR DAD AND ASK?
THAT OLD FART'S DRUNK OFF HIS ASS HALF THE DAY.
HUH?! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
OH! THAT WAS QUICK.

Sent Mail
15/09/25 13:56
To Kanetsugu Mato
Sub Re2: Evenin'

Can you elaborate further on the "nice" part?



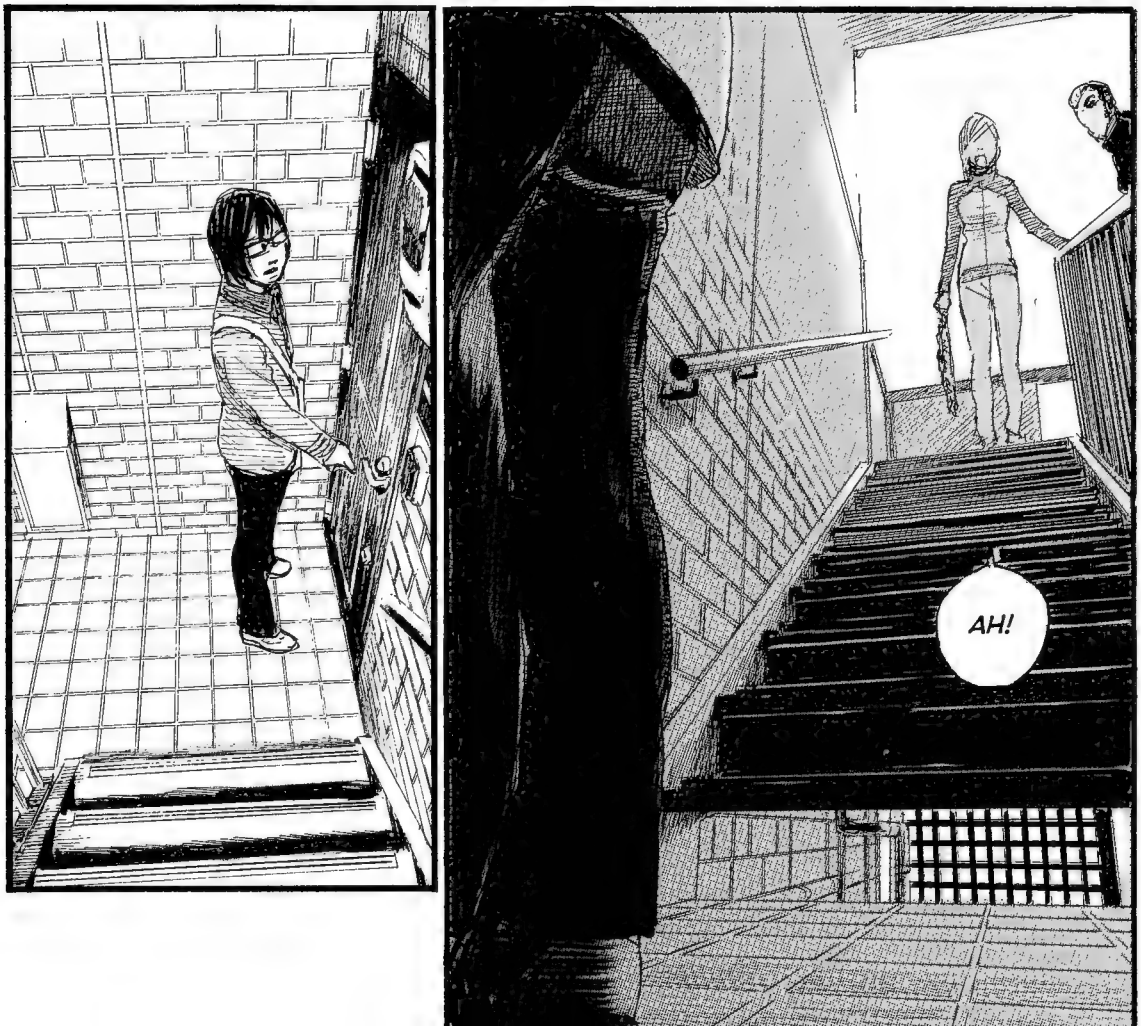


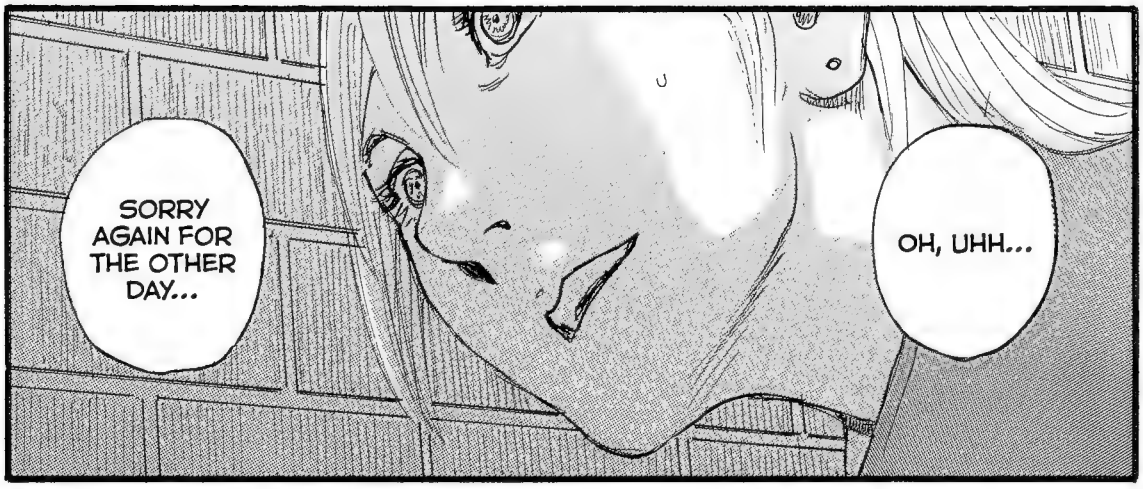
Sub Re3: Evenin'

MAKE A NOTE.

Later. We're about to go on the air.
Give me a call sometime after 10.

WHO LIVES HERE, ANYWAY?
A GIRL WHO I'M PRETTY SURE IS A COLLEGE STUDENT MOVED IN AROUND APRIL.
I'VE NEVER SPOKEN WITH HER, THOUGH.
IF I WAS HER BOY-FRIEND, I'D DEFINITELY CALL THE COPS OVER THIS.
FOR YOU.
...
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE OUT.
OH, WELL. I'LL JUST LEAVE IT HERE...


AH!


SORRY AGAIN FOR THE OTHER DAY...
OH, UHH...

SEM-PAI!
PLEASE TAKE THIS AND DON'T SAY ANY-THING!

CAN I HELP YOU?
OH! WAIT JUST A SEC, PLEASE.
OW OW... IT'S TANGLED AROUND MY FINGERS.
The police?

...AHH.
YOU'RE THE WOMAN I CALLED THE POLICE ON...

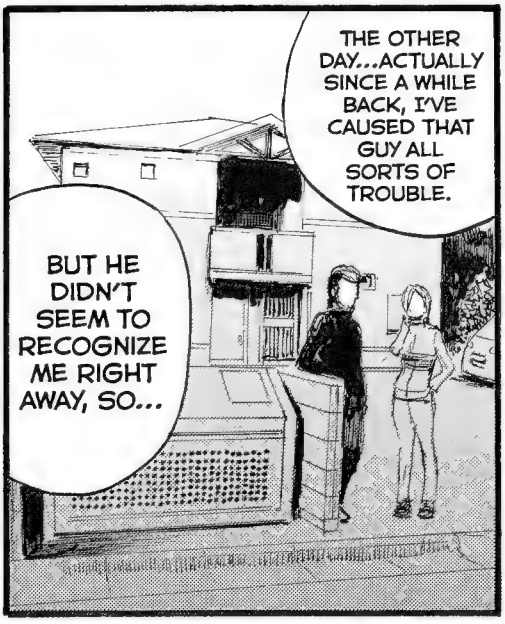
THANK YOU.
...I SEE.

...
PERFECTLY SUSPICIOUS

PHEEEW.
MINARE-SAN! MINARE-SAN!
I WAS SO FLUSTERED THAT I REVERTED BACK TO MY OLD SELF FROM VALENTINE'S DAY IN MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.
SOMETIMES UNLEASHING THE FEMININE POWER WORKS WONDERS!

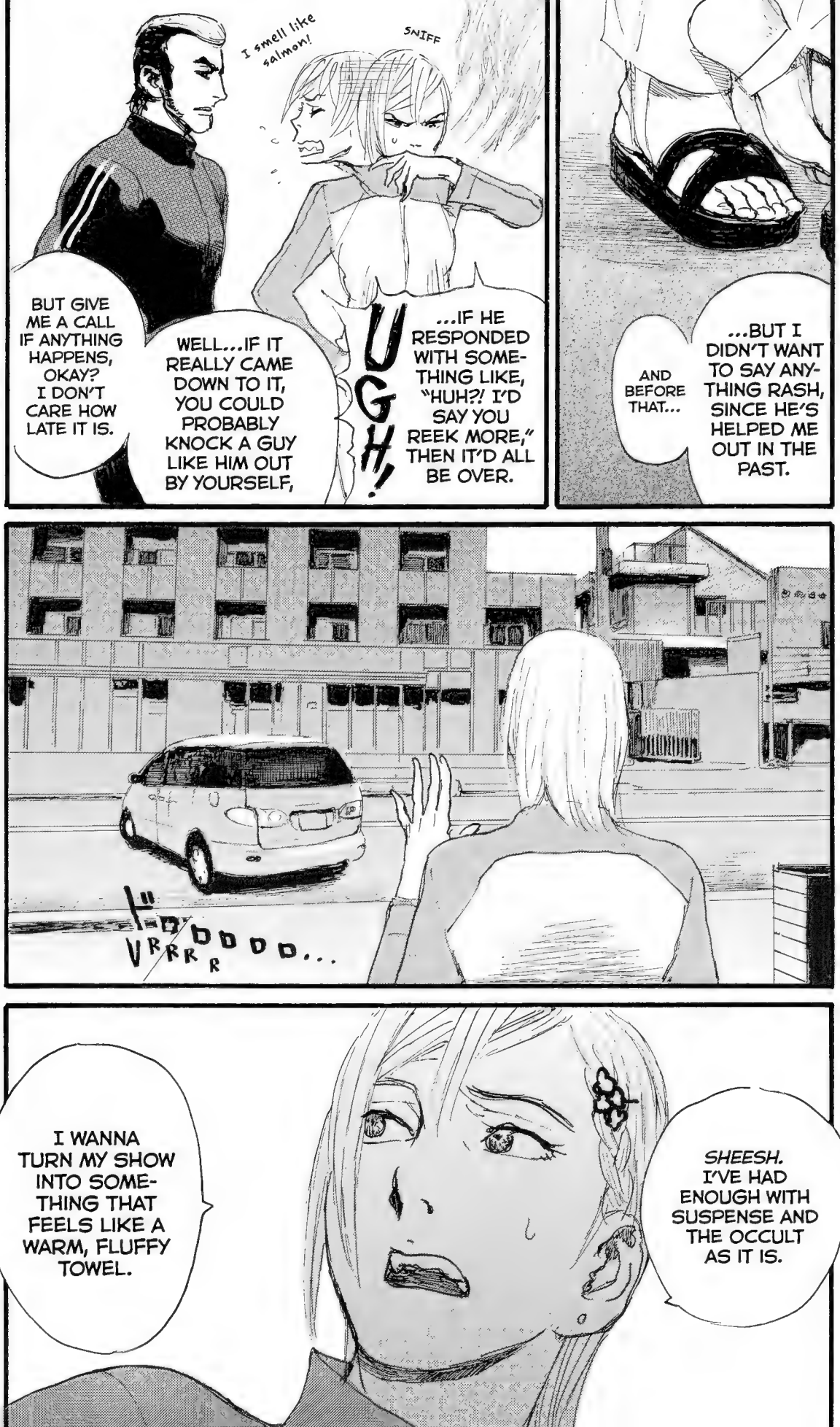
YES, SIR.
IS THAT ALL?

バタン
THUD

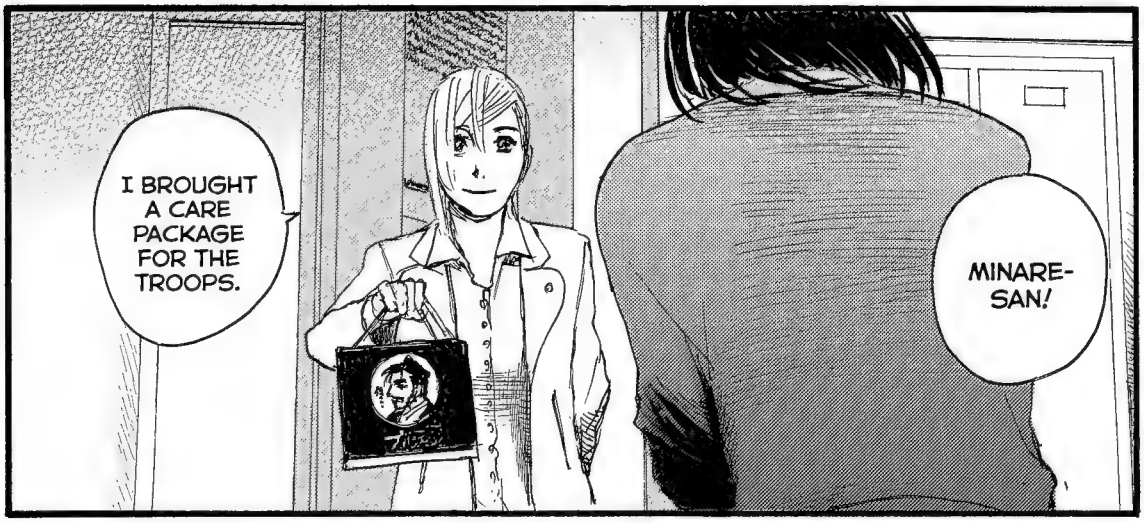


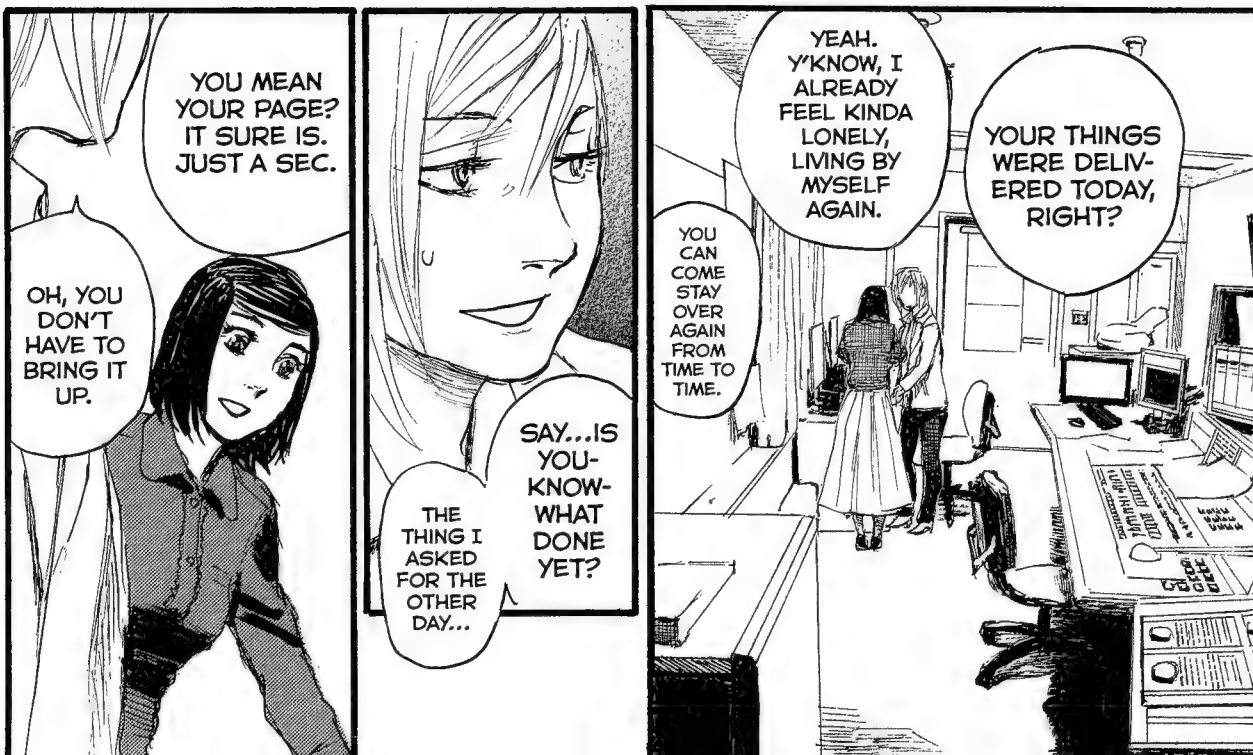
*A JAPANESE ACTRESS, MODEL AND NEWS ANCHOR.

NO, I MEAN...CALL IT THE SMELL OF ROTTING IF YOU WANT.
LIKE WHEN PROTEINS BREAK DOWN, Y'KNOW? IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE IT ANOTHER WAY...
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, SAYING THINGS LIKE OUT OF A DRAMA...
TELL ME, WHAT KINDA STENCH DOES DEATH HAVE? HAVE YOU SMELLED IT BEFORE?
HE HAD BAGS UNDER HIS EYES, TOO. HE'S DEFINITELY NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE...
...I'D SAY SOMETHING SMELLS FISHY.
SORRY. TO BE HONEST, I NOTICED, TOO...
YEAH...

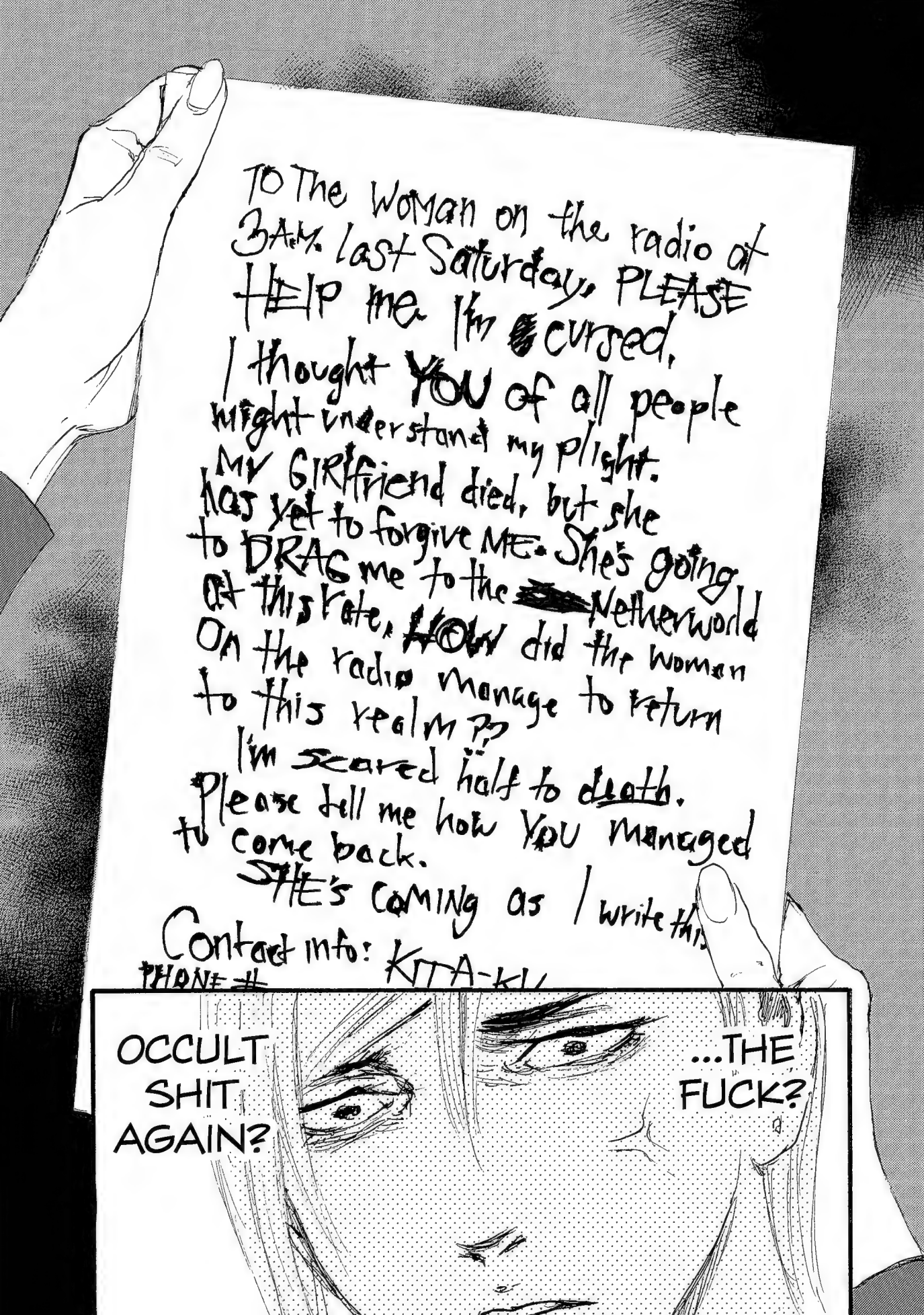

I smell like salmon!
SNIFF
UGH!
BUT GIVE ME A CALL IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, OKAY? I DON'T CARE HOW LATE IT IS.
WELL...IF IT REALLY CAME DOWN TO IT, YOU COULD PROBABLY KNOCK A GUY LIKE HIM OUT BY YOURSELF,
...IF HE RESPONDED WITH SOMETHING LIKE, "HUH?! I'D SAY YOU REEK MORE," THEN IT'D ALL BE OVER.
AND BEFORE THAT...
...BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING RASH, SINCE HE'S HELPED ME OUT IN THE PAST.
VRRRRDDDDD...
I WANNA TURN MY SHOW INTO SOMETHING THAT FEELS LIKE A WARM, FLUFFY TOWEL.
SHEESH. I'VE HAD ENOUGH WITH SUSPENSE AND THE OCCULT AS IT IS.

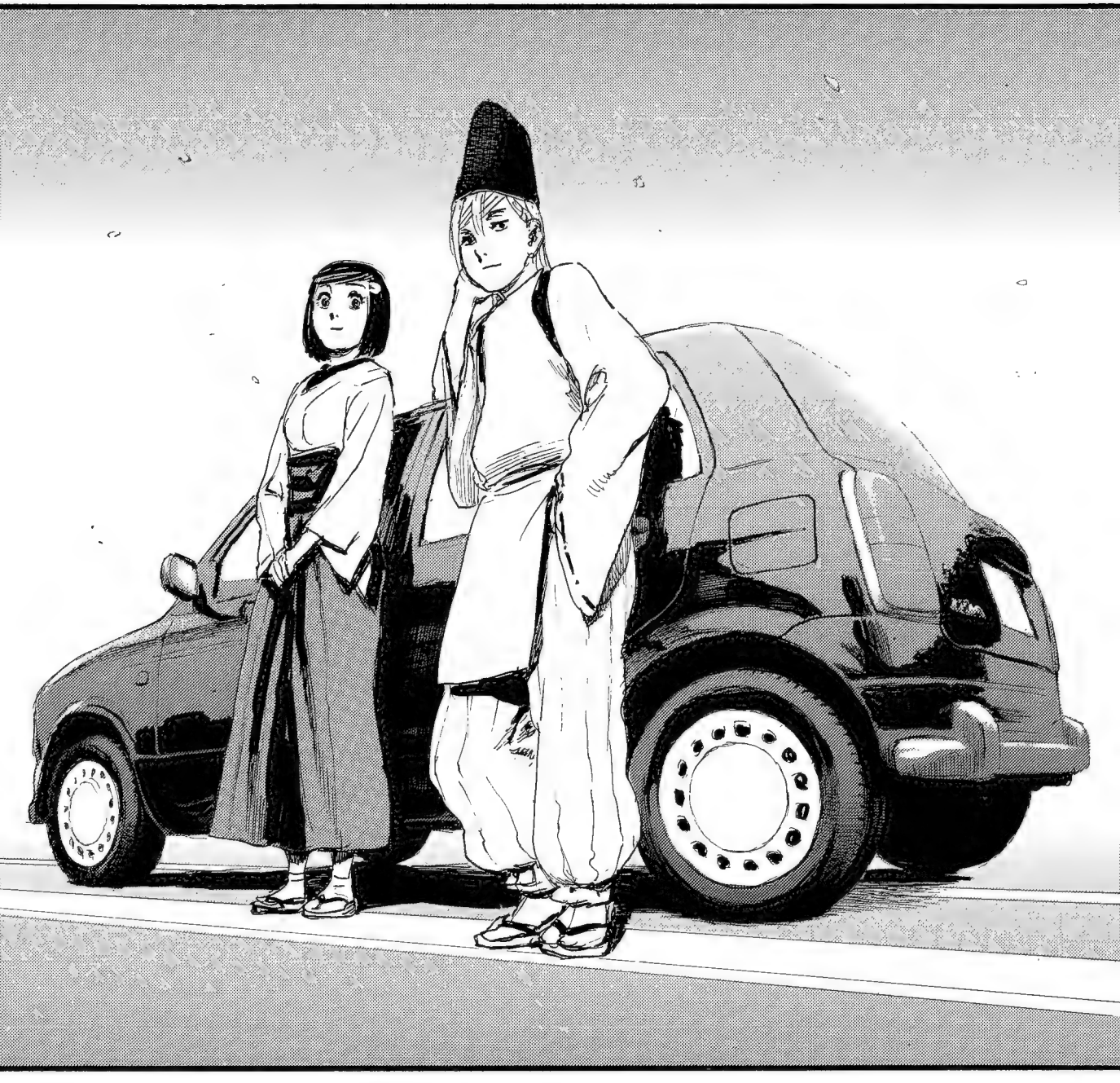
MIZUHO-CHAN.


I BROUGHT A CARE PACKAGE FOR THE TROOPS.
MINARE-SAN!


YOU MEAN YOUR PAGE? IT SURE IS. JUST A SEC.
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BRING IT UP.
SAY...IS YOU-KNOW-WHAT DONE YET?
THE THING I ASKED FOR THE OTHER DAY...
YEAH. Y'KNOW, I ALREADY FEEL KINDA LONELY, LIVING BY MYSELF AGAIN.
YOUR THINGS WERE DELIV-ERED TODAY, RIGHT?
YOU CAN COME STAY OVER AGAIN FROM TIME TO TIME.

WELL, THIS IS THE FAX IN QUESTION.
THEY WON'T COME IN THAT QUICK-LY!
JUST TELL ME IF ANY SHOW IDEAS HAVE COME YET.
Do ho ho...
HMM. ACTU-ALLY...
Imabari towelz
No!
WITH AN IMABARI TOWEL-LIKE IDEA!
SOME-ONE, PLEASE LEAD ME OUT OF THIS LAB-YRINTH!
OH, BUT...
IT'S NOT A SHOW PROPOSAL, BUT WE DID RECEIVE A WEIRD FAX ADDRESSED TO YOU...
HUFF
?!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT! JUST SHOW ME!
IT'S HIS FAULT I'M AT MY WIT'S END RIGHT NOW!
whatz!
WHAT SHOULD I DO? MATO-SAN TOLD ME NOT TO MAKE THINGS EASY FOR YOU.


To The Woman on the radio at 3A.M. last Saturday, PLEASE HELP me. I'm cursed.
I thought YOU of all people might understand my plight.
My GIRLfriend died, but she has yet to forgive ME. She's going to DRAG me to the Netherworld
At this rate, HOW did the woman On the radio manage to return to this realm??
I'm scared half to death.
Please tell me how YOU managed to come back.
SHE's coming as I write this.
Contact info: KITA-KI
PHONE #
OCCULT SHIT AGAIN?
...THE FUCK?



Chapter 20 「THEY DON'T EXIST.」

TO The Woman on the
3A.M. last Saturday,
HELP me. I'm curse
I thought YOU of all
might understand my pligh
GIRlfriend died, but
to forgive ME. She's
me to the
rate, HOW did th
radio manage
to this realm??
I'm scared half to
DO YOU THINK THEY WANT ME TO GO TO THEIR HOUSE?
WHAT THE HELL...IS THIS?
OH, YEAH. YOU MENTIONED BEFORE THAT ELDERLY PEOPLE STILL USE FAX, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T THINK THIS COULD BE FROM SOME GEEZER OFF HIS ROCKER?
OR SOME GRANNY?
I THOUGHT SO, TOO, AT FIRST, BUT LOOK HERE...
THEY'RE 28?!

FOR STARTERS, THE DEAD LOVER THEME IS KINDA OLD...
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
THEY WENT ALL OUT WITH THE SMUDGES AND STUFF.
THAT SETTLES IT! THEY JUST SENT IN A MESSY HORROR LETTER AS A PRANK, RIGHT?
Contact
PHONE # 011-24
Shinji Oki

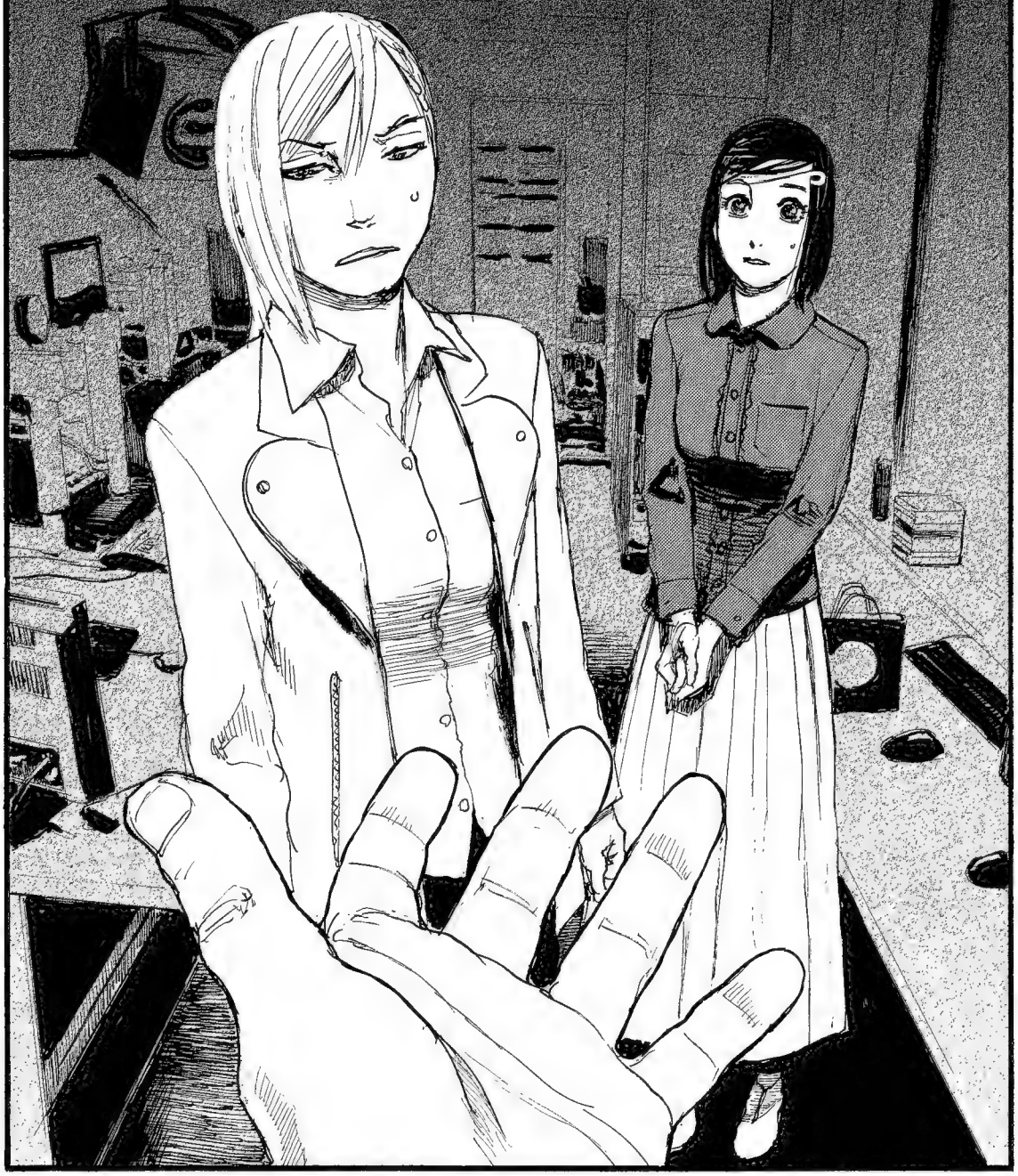
ON SECOND THOUGHT... THIS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE LEGIT.
...HEY, MIZUHO-CHAN.
HUH?

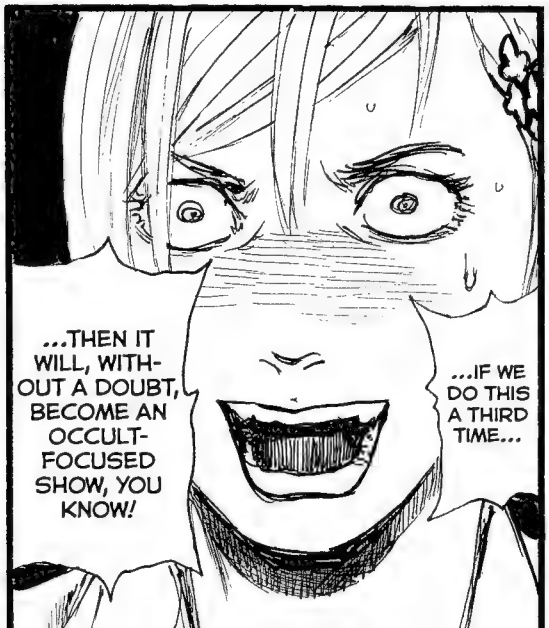
IF WE DON'T THINK THINGS THROUGH AND JUST KEEP TAKING SHOTS IN THE DARK, THEN WE'RE BOUND TO DRAW IN SOME CRAZIES! LOOK!
THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT, MATO-SAN!
WHAT'S UP?
HM? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU DROPPED BY.

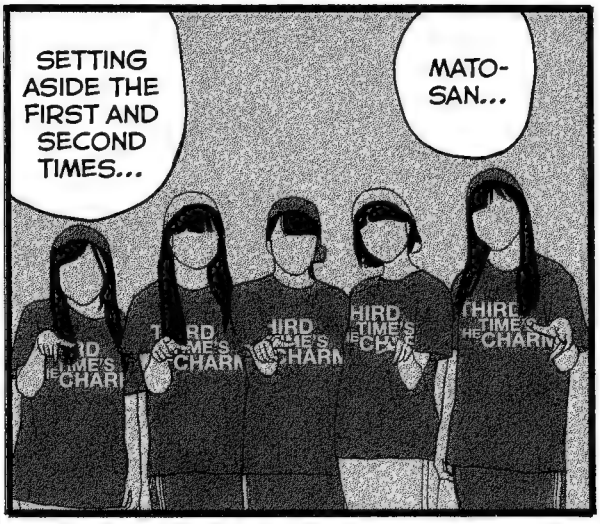
OH, MAN, THIS IS WILD. HA HA HA!
...HMM.

I JUST KNEW YOU'D HELP ME OUT!
AH! YES, SIR! ♡
ABOUT THE MATE-RIAL FOR THE THIRD SHOW...
MI-NARE.
IF THAT KINDA REACTION FLEW, THEN WE WOULDN'T NEED POLICE...

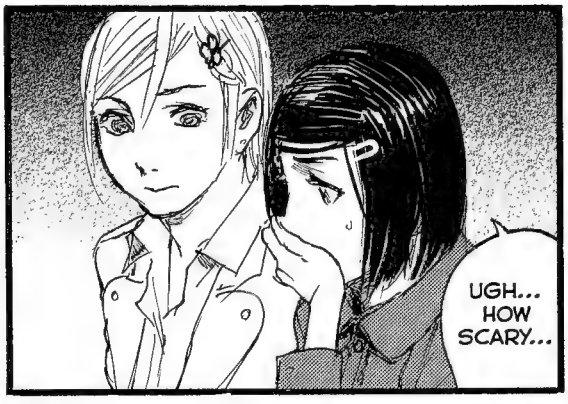
Y'KNOW...
...IT DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE LIVE.
?
AND WITH THAT, HERE YOU GO.
...WHA?
...HUH? UHH...
GO TO THE ADDRESS OF WHOEVER SENT THIS FAX AND RECORD THE WHOLE THING.
IT'S NOT EVERYDAY YOU GET A CHANCE TO HEAR SOMEONE'S GENUINELY TERRIFIED VOICE ON THE RADIO.




...THEN IT WILL, WITHOUT A DOUBT, BECOME AN OCCULT-FOCUSED SHOW, YOU KNOW!
...IF WE DO THIS A THIRD TIME...


SETTING ASIDE THE FIRST AND SECOND TIMES...
MATO-SAN...

...
NANBA, GO WITH MINARE AS HER ASSISTANT, WILL YOU?
JUST LEAVE THE CDS YOU'RE GONNA PLAY AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
OH, BUT I HAVE CRUISE NINE COMING UP...
HUH?! ARE YOU SURE?


UGH... HOW SCARY...

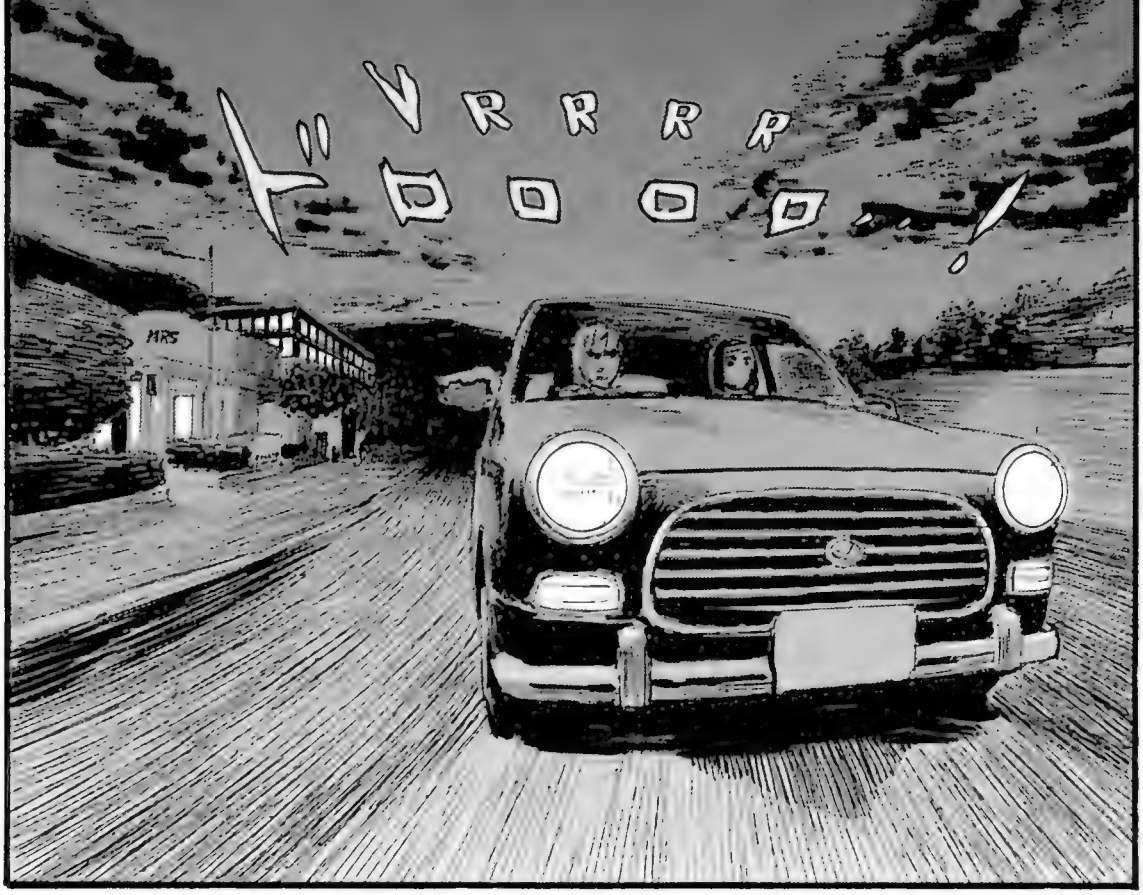
TO TURN A BLIND EYE IS A COWARD'S GAMBIT...

HWAH?!
OH, AND IF MINARE ABSOLUTELY REFUSES TO GO...
...SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GO TALK TO THE GUY BY YOURSELF?
I'D REALLY LIKE TO HAVE THIS AS MATERIAL.

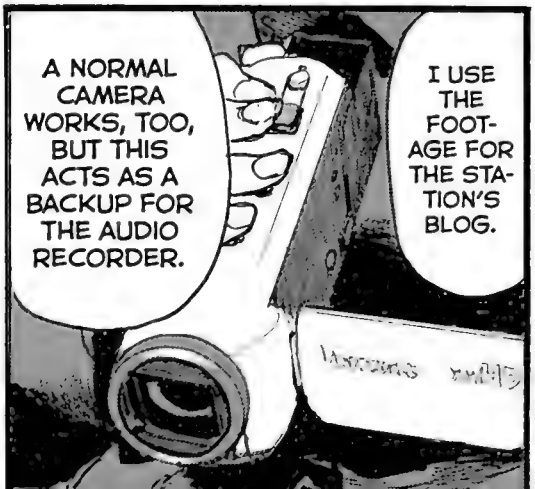
UMM... THIS IS A PRETTY AVERAGE WORK ORDER.
NAY, I SAY!
I SHAN'T OVERLOOK THIS BLATANT DISPLAY OF POWER MONGERING UNFOLDING BEFORE MY EYES!

MATO-SAN, I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD TRY DYING FROM SOME UNKNOWN STD SOMETIME. SERIOUSLY.
TOO EASY...
TH-THANKS...
I UNDERSTAND. LET US GO TOGETHER, MIZUHO.
I FORGOT THAT I VOWED TO PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
Remind me when you made that vow?
...BUT YOU'RE STILL PRACTICALLY AN AMATEUR. JUST DIVE IN HEAD-FIRST AND WE'LL BE THERE TO CATCH YOU.
ANY MESSES A NOVICE RADIO PERSONALITY MAKES WHILE OUT ON LOCATION...
COULD POTENTIALLY MAKE FOR GOOD MATERIAL FOR A FUTURE SHOW WITH A LITTLE TWEAKING.
WELL, AS SOMEONE WHO WORKS FOR THE STATION, SAYING THIS COULD ONLY BE SEEN AS ME BEING SOFT...
...BUT TV VIEWERS ARE "GUESTS" ...
...WHILE RADIO LISTENERS ARE "PARTICIPANTS."
MINARE, I FEEL LIKE I'VE GONE OVER THIS MULTIPLE TIMES ALREADY...

UHH...I GET THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO HELP ME RELAX...
...BUT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT ISN'T COMPLAINTS.
IT'S THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GUY WHO SENT THIS MIGHT BE LEGITIMATELY DANGEROUS!
ANY SANE COMPANY CHOOSE TO IGNORE THIS, RIGHT?!
SACRIFICING ONESELF FOR ENTERTAINMENT IS THE SIGN OF A PRO.
THIS ISN'T ANYTHING LIKE THE RADIO PERSONALITIES I KNOW...
MINARE...
BELIEVE IN THE DIRECTOR WHO FELL FOR YOU AT FIRST SIGHT.
SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU...
...I'LL PAY YOUR BAIL IN FULL.
A-HA.
SO IT'S ASSUMED THAT I'LL BE ARRESTED. I SEE.

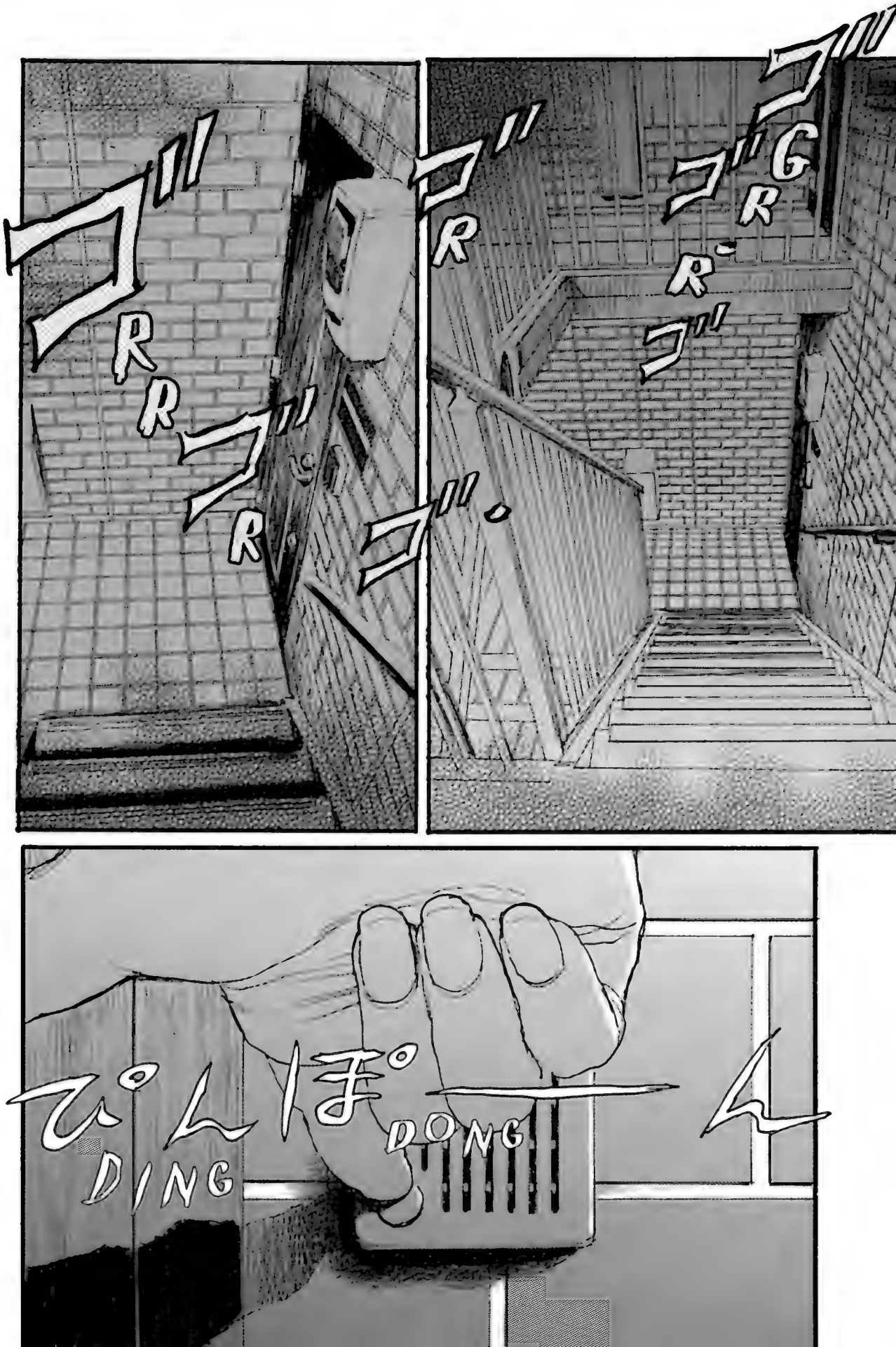

VRRRR
ドロロロ…！

I'M EXCITED TO GO RECORDING WITH YOU.
Y'KNOW, MINIS ARE A MUCH BETTER DRIVE THAN I HEARD!
YEAH, MY HEART'S POUNDING, TOO.
THOUGH YOU MIGHT HAVE TO DRIVE BACK YOURSELF...


I USE THE FOOTAGE FOR THE STATION'S BLOG.
A NORMAL CAMERA WORKS, TOO, BUT THIS ACTS AS A BACKUP FOR THE AUDIO RECORDER.

BY THE WAY, WHY'D YOU BRING A CAMCORDER FOR A RADIO RECORDING?
OH, I BRING THIS WITH ME EVERY TIME.

*A FAMOUS GHOST SITE.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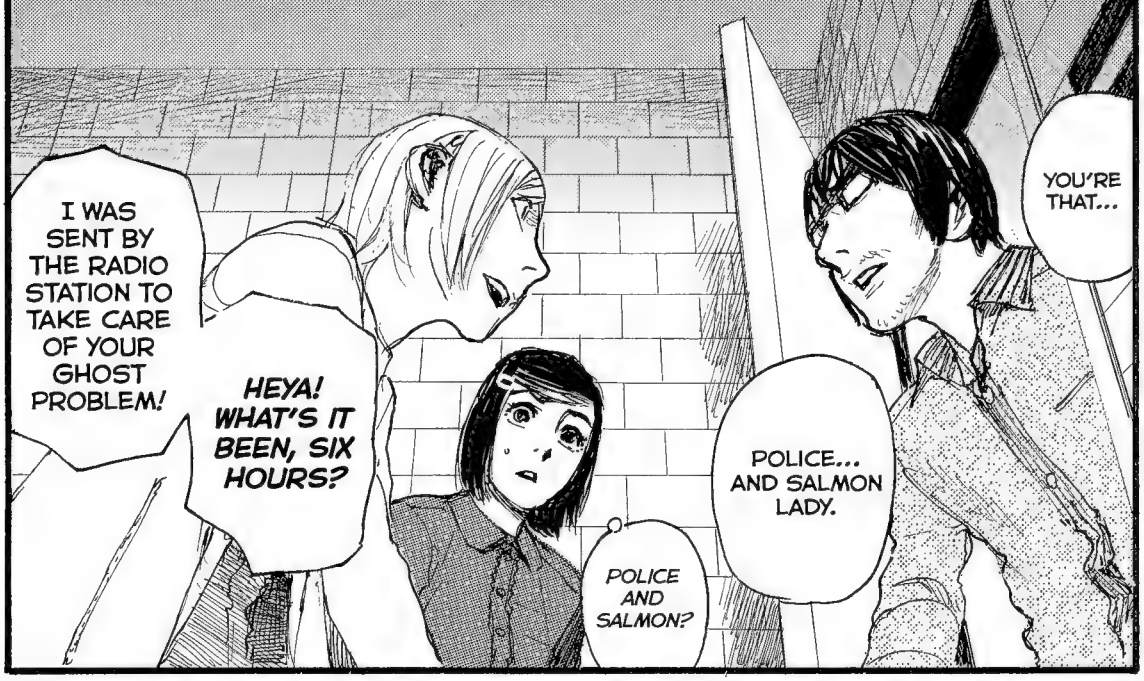
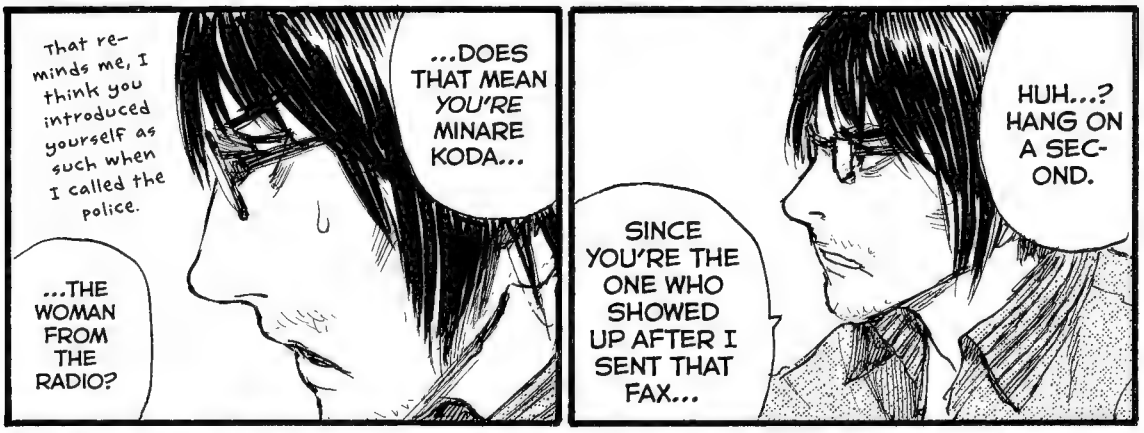
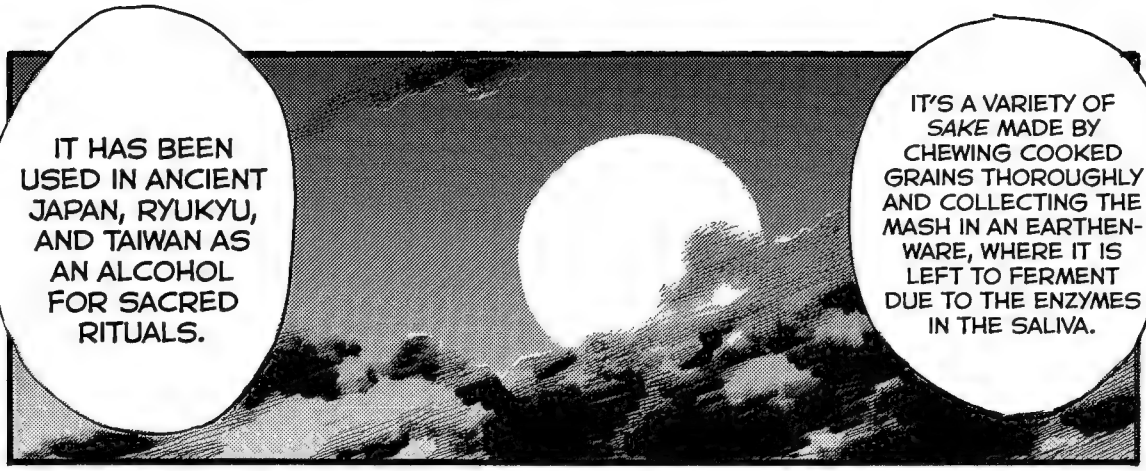
DING
DONG

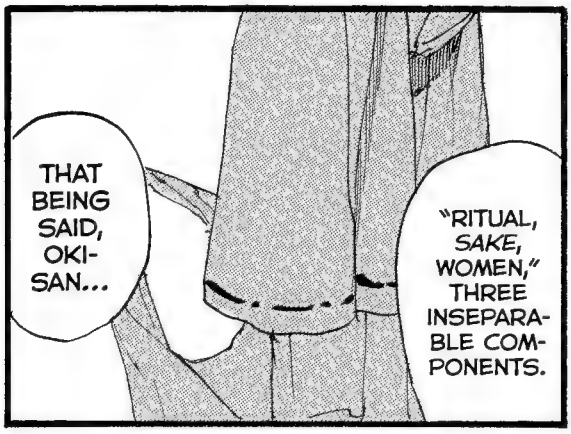
ZICH
N-NO SOME ONE HEL—
BOOP
DING DONG
what was that...?
TCH
yes?
GOOD EVENING. I'M FROM MOIWAYAMA RADIO. WE SPOKE ON THE PHONE EARLIER.
CLACK
...


I WAS SENT BY THE RADIO STATION TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR GHOST PROBLEM!
HEYA! WHAT'S IT BEEN, SIX HOURS?
POLICE AND SALMON?
POLICE... AND SALMON LADY.
YOU'RE THAT...

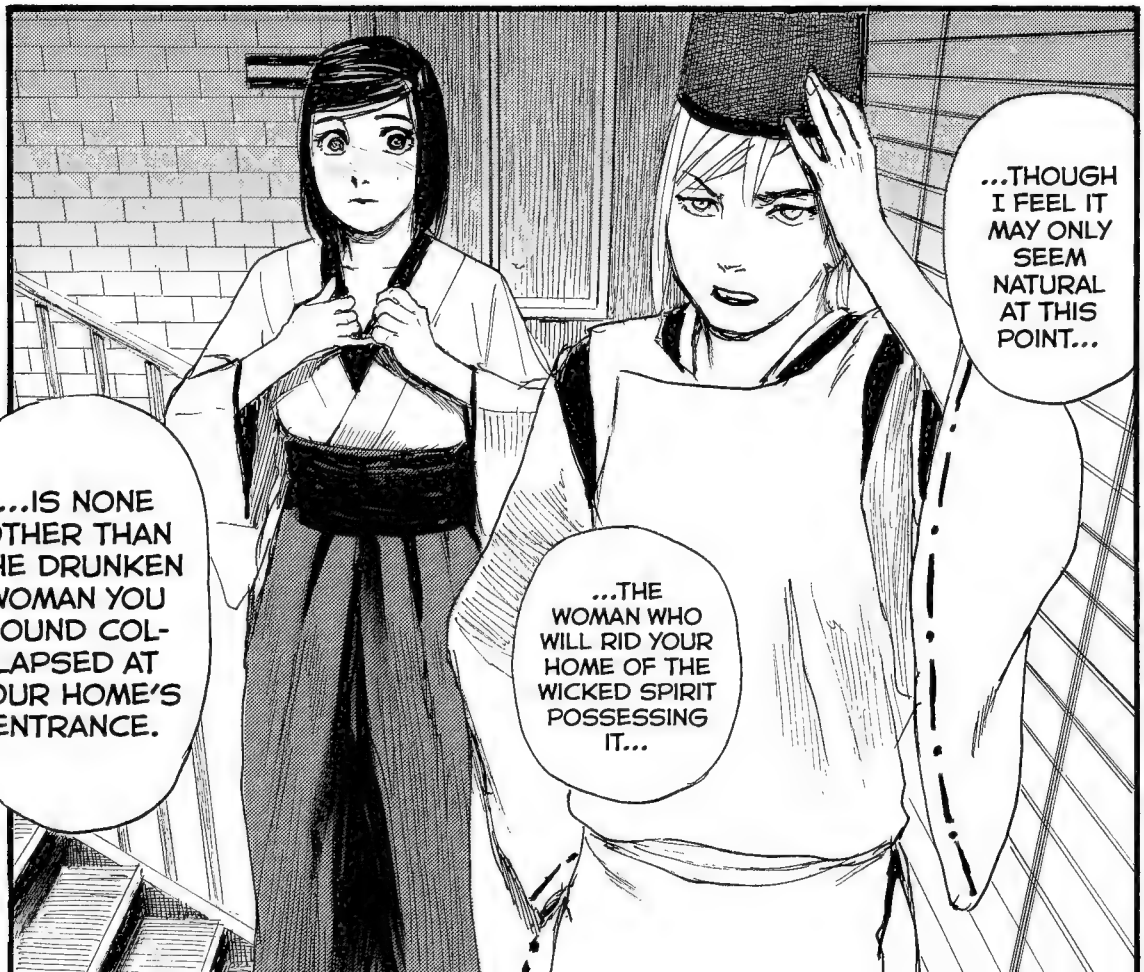

That reminds me, I think you introduced yourself as such when I called the police.
...THE WOMAN FROM THE RADIO?
...DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE MINARE KODA...
SINCE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOWED UP AFTER I SENT THAT FAX...
HUH...? HANG ON A SEC-OND.

ARE YOU AWARE OF SOMETHING KNOWN AS KUCHI-KAMIZAKE?
OKI-SAN...


IT HAS BEEN USED IN ANCIENT JAPAN, RYUKYU, AND TAIWAN AS AN ALCOHOL FOR SACRED RITUALS.
IT'S A VARIETY OF *SAKE* MADE BY CHEWING COOKED GRAINS THOROUGHLY AND COLLECTING THE MASH IN AN EARTHENWARE, WHERE IT IS LEFT TO FERMENT DUE TO THE ENZYMES IN THE SALIVA.


THAT BEING SAID, OKI-SAN...
"RITUAL, *SAKE*, WOMEN," THREE INSEPARABLE COMPONENTS.

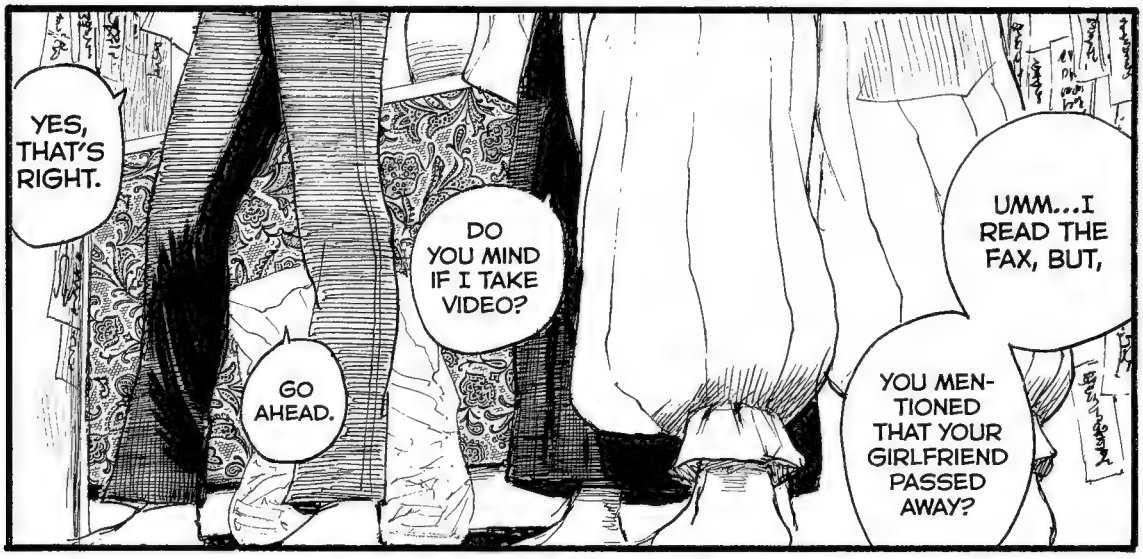
...WAS ALWAYS A WOMAN, EITHER SHRINE MAIDENS OR VIRGINS.
WHAT'S INTRIGUING IS THAT THE ONE TASKED WITH MAKING THE *SAKE*...
PALACE of SAVINGS
DON QUIJOTE


...IS NONE OTHER THAN THE DRUNKEN WOMAN YOU FOUND COLLAPSED AT YOUR HOME'S ENTRANCE.
...THE WOMAN WHO WILL RID YOUR HOME OF THE WICKED SPIRIT POSSESSING IT...
...THOUGH I FEEL IT MAY ONLY SEEM NATURAL AT THIS POINT...

JEEZ, MINARE-SAN...
HM?
THE FACT THAT HE JUST IGNORED THAT RIDICULOUS, LONG-WINDED EXPLANA-TION...
IS JUST A TESTAMENT TO THE SCALE AND DEPTH OF HIS DIS-TRESS.
...
VERY WELL. PLEASE, COME INSIDE.
I SEE...
OH, ACTUALLY, I LIVE IN THE ROOM UP-STAIRS ON THE OTHER SIDE.
HUH?!
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE THAT YOU DIDN'T HESITATE TO COME HERE.
YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTH-ER...
MIZUHO-CHAN.
NO MATTER THE QUALITY OF HIS CHAR-ACTER, HE IS A CIVILIAN, WHILE WE ARE THE MEDIA.
ALSO, WHAT?! HE SOUNDS LIKE A SUPER GOOD PERSON!
THAT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL!
HE JUST CARRIED ME TO MY ROOM AFTER I PASSED OUT DRUNK AT THE WRONG DOOR A NUMBER OF TIMES. THAT'S ALL.
AND I WOULDN'T REALLY SAY WE'RE AC-QUAINTED.

COME ON IN.
WHERE DID HER HUMANITY GO?
THIS IS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIAL INSTANCE THAT WILL DETERMINE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY LISTENERS. I CAN'T LET MYSELF BE TAKEN LIGHTLY NOW, CAN I?
I WANT TO MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE OF A BEAUTIFUL DJ CORDIALLY HEARING OUT THE WOES OF THE PUBLIC.

WHOA...


UMM...I READ THE FAX, BUT,
YOU MENTIONED THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND PASSED AWAY?
DO YOU MIND IF I TAKE VIDEO?
GO AHEAD.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT YOU KNOW...
...IT WILL COME SOON.

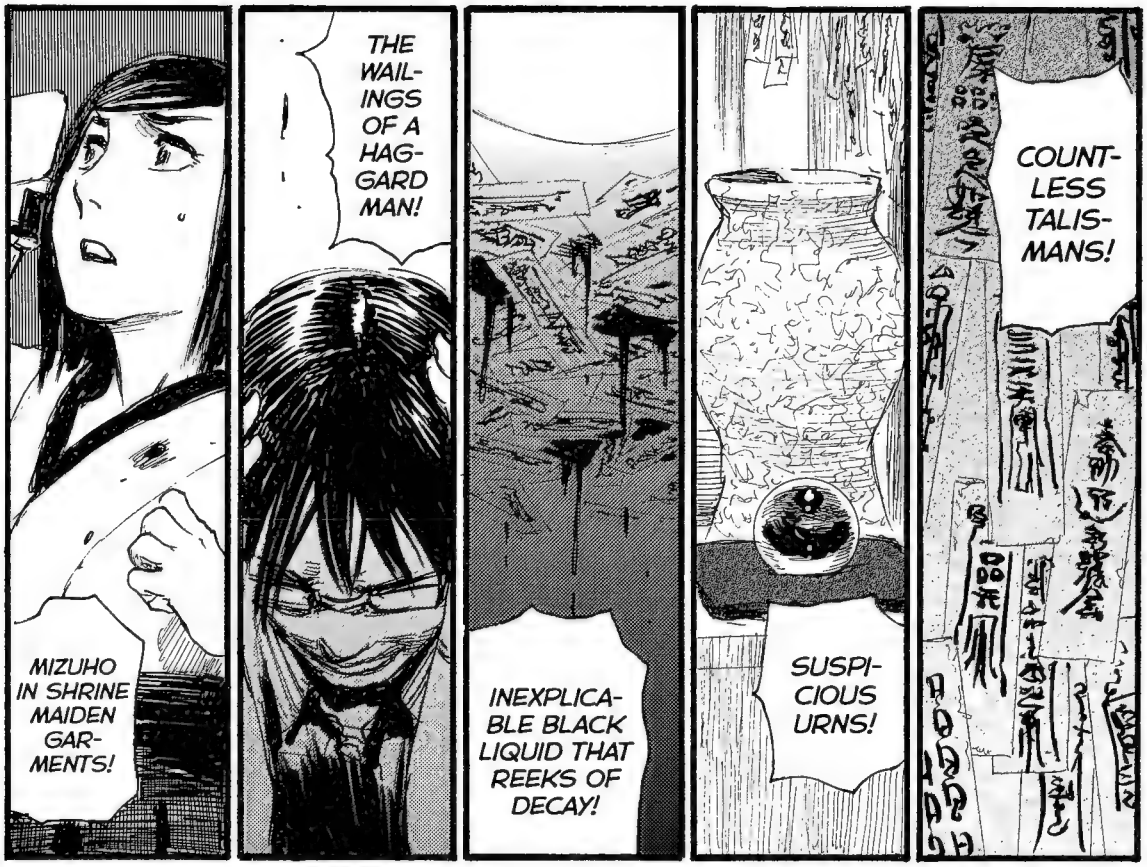
ゴ GRRRRR ゴゴゴゴ
HUH?
...?
GWOOOHHH ゴォ ゴォ ゴォ ゴォ
PLIP

AH...
THE HELL?! IT REEKS!
UGH!
?

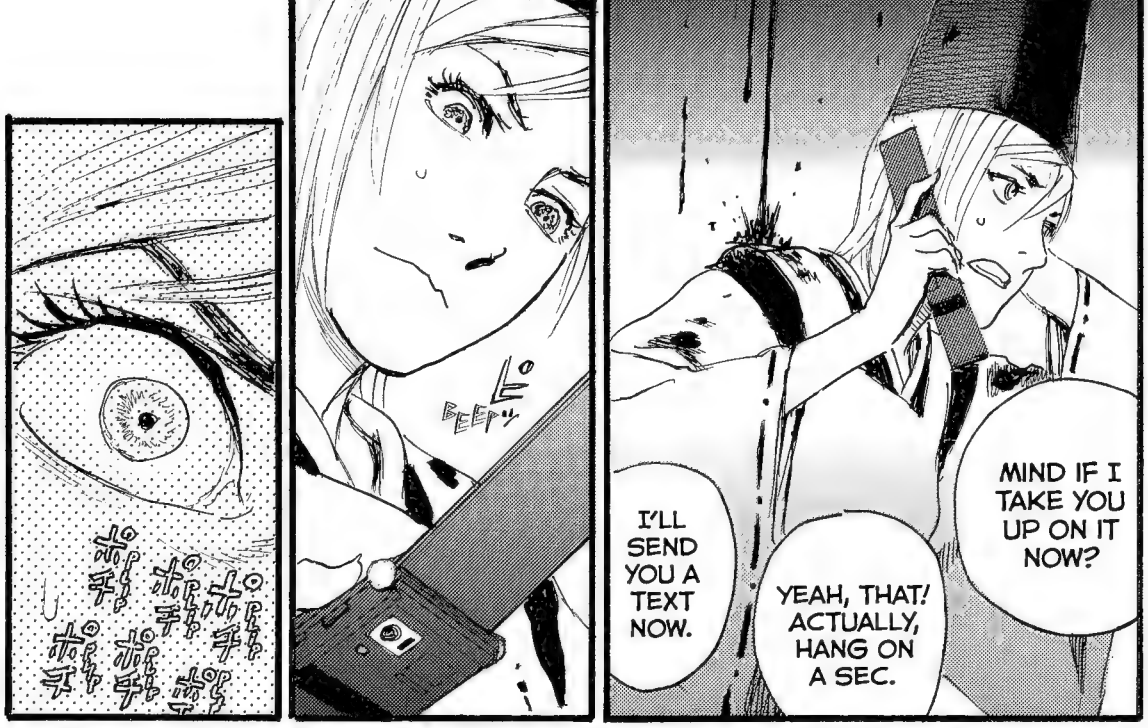
EEEK!
WHAA?! HOLD UP!
UWAHHH! RITSUKOOO!
WHAT? HUH?!
MINARE-SAN, THIS IS...
well, this is a pickle.
STRAIGHT INTO PANIC MODE WITH NO EXPLA-NATION...!
I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, EITHER!
FOR-GIVE MEEE!

I'LL TAKE BIZARRE SITUATIONS OVER THE OCCULT ANY DAY.
IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME SINCE WE CAME INSIDE, BUT...ISN'T THIS...
...THE SMELL OF ROTTING MEAT?!
BRING IT ON...
THINKING BACK ON IT, I STILL WASN'T PREPARED FOR WHAT WAS TO COME.
HELLO? NAKAMURA-KUN?
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THAT...

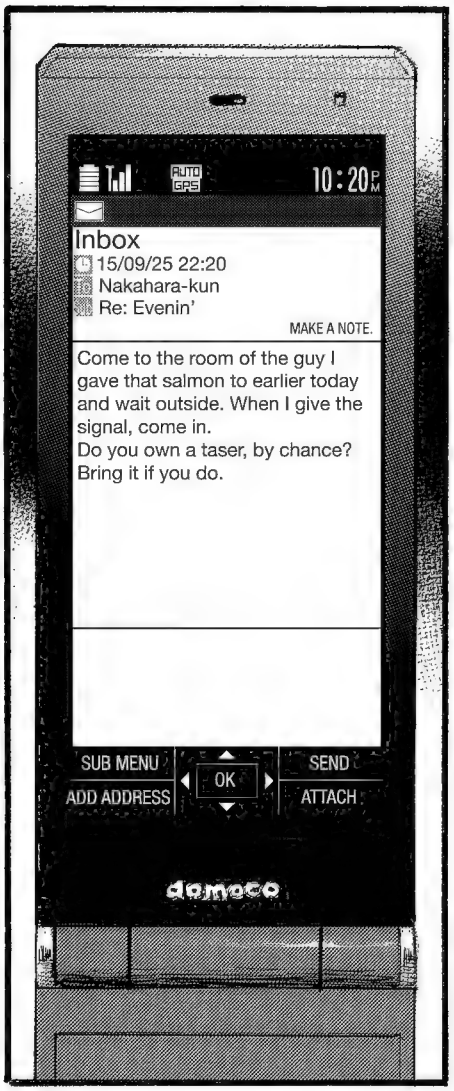
Chapter 五「STEAM IS UNCONCEALABLE.」

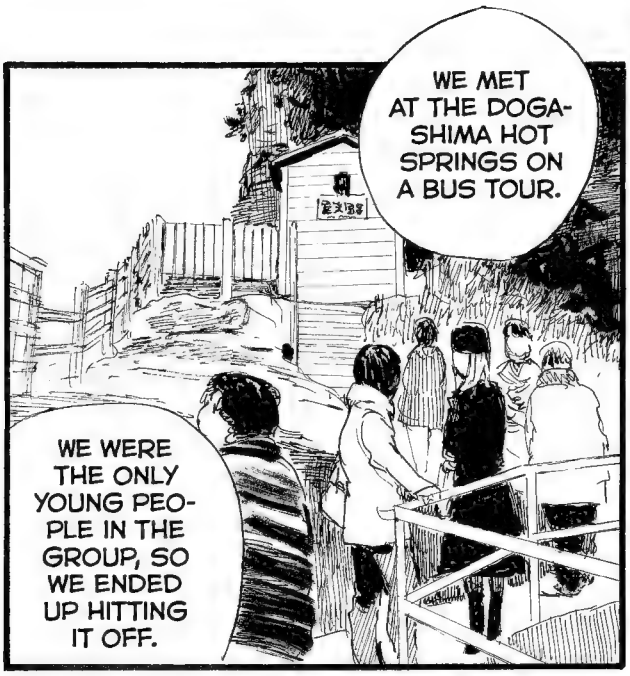

COUNT-LESS TALIS-MANS!
SUSPI-CIOUS URNS!
INEXPLICA-BLE BLACK LIQUID THAT REEKS OF DECAY!
THE WAIL-INGS OF A HAG-GARD MAN!
MIZUHO IN SHRINE MAIDEN GAR-MENTS!

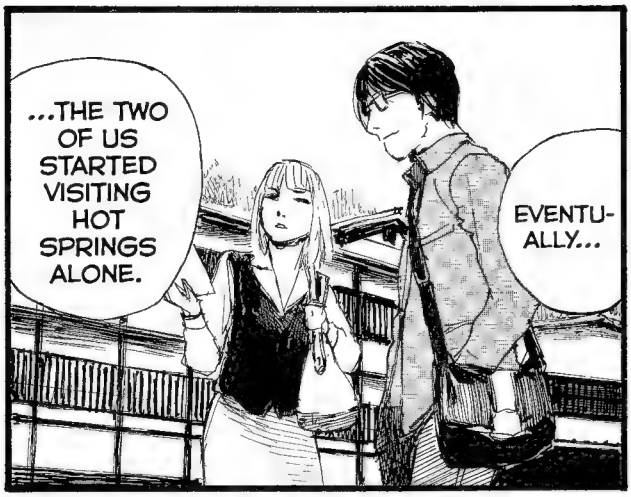
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CONVEY ALL OF THIS OVER THE RADIO?!
HELLO? IT'S ME! ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?
SO...ABOUT THAT OFFER YOU MADE EARLIER TODAY.

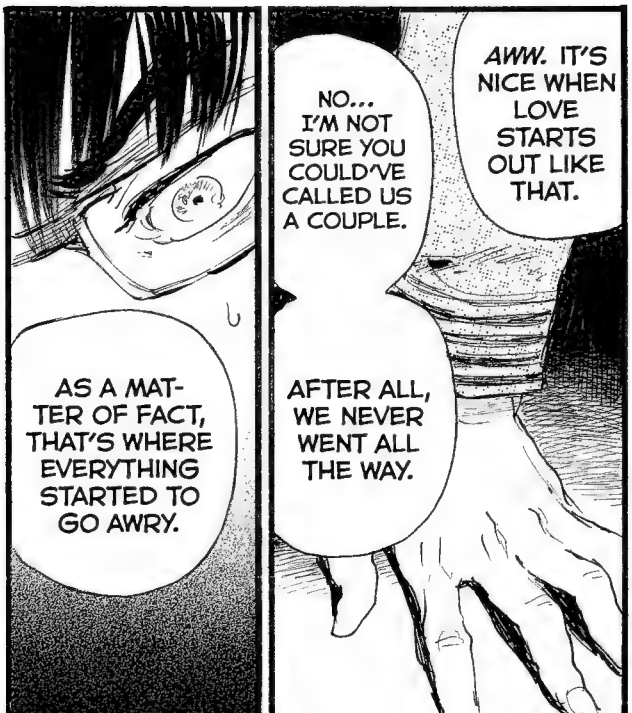


*A BOXING MANGA IN WHICH THE PROTAGONIST USES A SIMILAR FIGHTING STANCE.




WE MET AT THE DOGASHIMA HOT SPRINGS ON A BUS TOUR.
WE WERE THE ONLY YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE GROUP, SO WE ENDED UP HITTING IT OFF.


...THE TWO OF US STARTED VISITING HOT SPRINGS ALONE.
EVENTUALLY...


AS A MATTER OF FACT, THAT'S WHERE EVERYTHING STARTED TO GO AWRY.
NO... I'M NOT SURE YOU COULD'VE CALLED US A COUPLE.
AFTER ALL, WE NEVER WENT ALL THE WAY.
AWW. IT'S NICE WHEN LOVE STARTS OUT LIKE THAT.

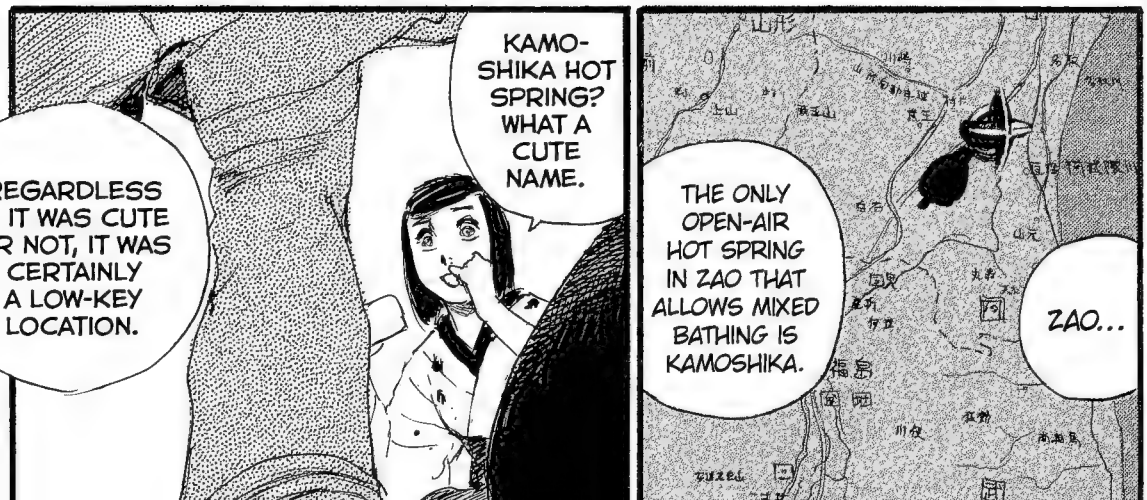
I MET RITSUKO AZOHARA WHILE I WAS LIVING IN TOKYO.
3rd generation slavic heritage.
HER HOBBIES WERE READING MANGA AND VISITING HOT SPRINGS...

THERE, WE CAN...
LET'S GO TO A SUPER SECLUDED OPEN-AIR HOT SPRING, JUST THE TWO OF US.

I'M GLAD...
A YEAR AFTER WE MET, I DECIDED TO TELL HER HOW I FELT...

IT STINKS, AND YOU'D BOTHER THE OTHER BATHERS.
NO, NO, NO.
HOW ROMAN-TIC...

THAT'S LOVEY-DOVEY ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FEEL SICK.
SO, WHILE HOLDING HANDS, WE THREW A DART TO DECIDE WHERE WE'D GO.


REGARDLESS IF IT WAS CUTE OR NOT, IT WAS CERTAINLY A LOW-KEY LOCATION.
KAMO-SHIKA HOT SPRING? WHAT A CUTE NAME.
THE ONLY OPEN-AIR HOT SPRING IN ZAO THAT ALLOWS MIXED BATHING IS KAMOSHIKA.
ZAO...
山形
福島

THAT'S SOUNDS LIKE NATURE'S WAY OF TELLING PEOPLE TO STAY AWAY!
AFTER ALL, IT'S A NATURAL HOT SPRING LOCATED RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF A ROCKSLIDE ZONE HALFWAY UP THE MOUNTAIN...
Around here
A hot spring...?
...THAT YOU HAVE TO HIKE UP ON AN UNTENDED PATH ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF FROM THE NETHER-WORLD RIVERBED PARKING AREA ON THE ZAO ECHO LINE TO GET TO.
KAMOSHIKA HOT SPRING
MAEKAWA, KAWASAKI, SHIBATA DISTRICT, MIYAGI PREFECTURE

THAT'S WHY... IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE LIKE OUR OWN SECRET HOT SPRING...

THAT BEING SAID, EVEN A REMOTE PLACE LIKE THAT GETS VISITORS SOME-TIMES DURING THE TOURISM SEASON.
SOUNDS LIKE THE PERFECT PLACE TO HAVE A GRASS SAND-WICH.

I SEE...SO YOU CHECKED AS MANY BOXES FOR A DISASTER SCENARIO AS POSSIBLE.
THAT WAY, WE WOULDN'T RUN INTO ANYONE.
ON A CALM DAY WHEN THE VOLCANIC GASES BUILD UP EASILY.
...WE WENT DURING WINTER, WHEN ALL TRAFFIC STOPS,

I CAN'T DESCRIBE HOW BEAUTIFUL RITSUKO'S NAKED BODY WAS WHEN I FIRST SAW IT...

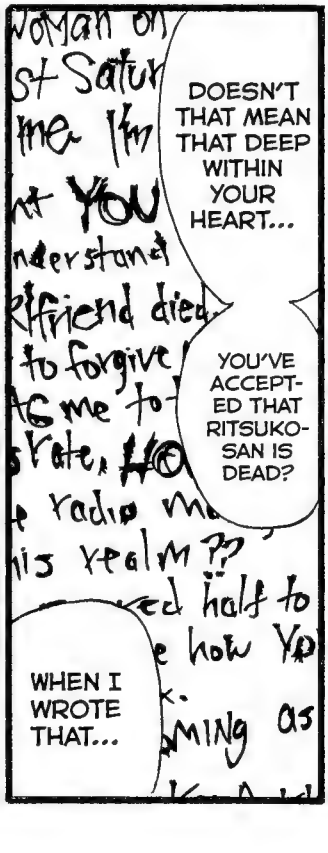
...THAT'S WHERE MY MEMORY GOES BLANK.
MY GUESS IS IT WAS THE GAS.

WITH OUR FINGERS LACED...
...WE BROUGHT OUR LIPS TOGETH-ER...
... THEN...

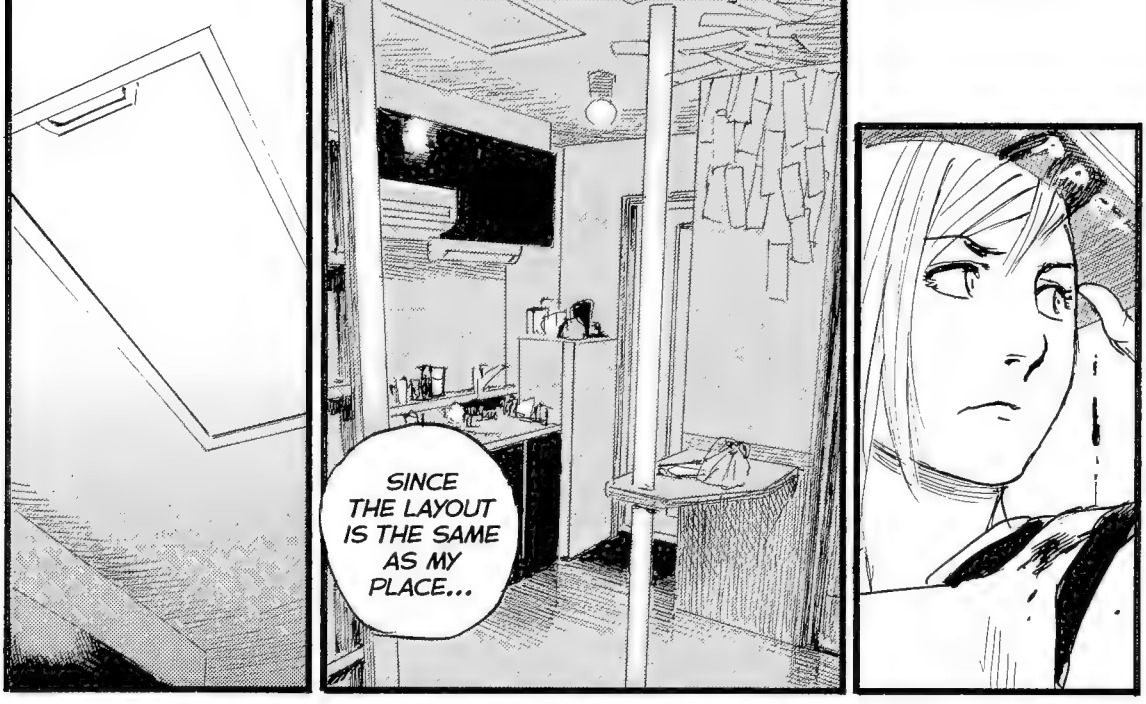
WHEN I CAME TO...
...I WAS BEING TENDED TO AT A LOCAL'S HOME NEAR GAGA HOT SPRING.
...WHERE'S THE WOMAN I WAS WITH?
YER THE ONLY ONE WE FOUND, MISTER.
I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE. WE FOUND YOU NAKED AS A BABE OUT THERE.
EVEN AFTER SPRING CAME...
...RITSU-KO'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND.
I THINK SHE MIGHT STILL BE WANDERING OUT THERE SOMEWHERE IN THE ZAO MOUNTAINS.
I ALSO FEEL LIKE...
...I LEFT MY HEART BEHIND THERE ON THAT FATEFUL WINTER DAY.

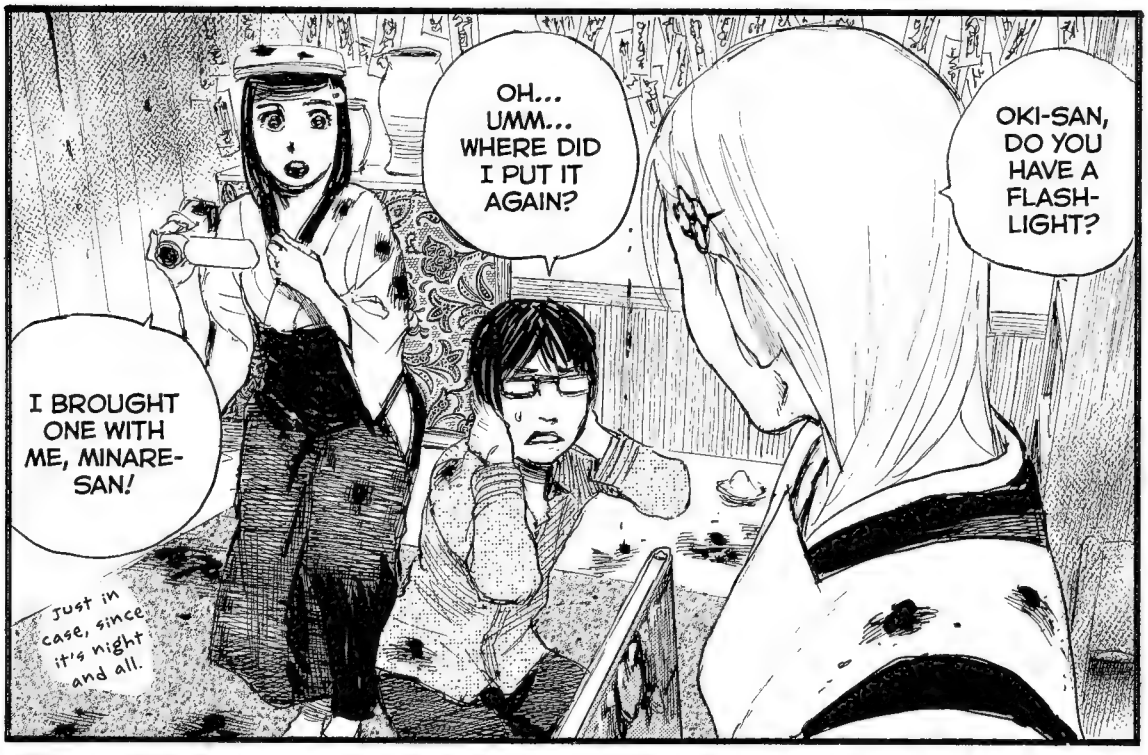
MIND IF I ASK YOU SOMETHING, TEACH?
WHAT IS IT?

...TO BE HONEST, I WAS BESIDE MYSELF.
BUT... NO, I'M NOT SURE.
WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT IT, MY HEAD JUST...

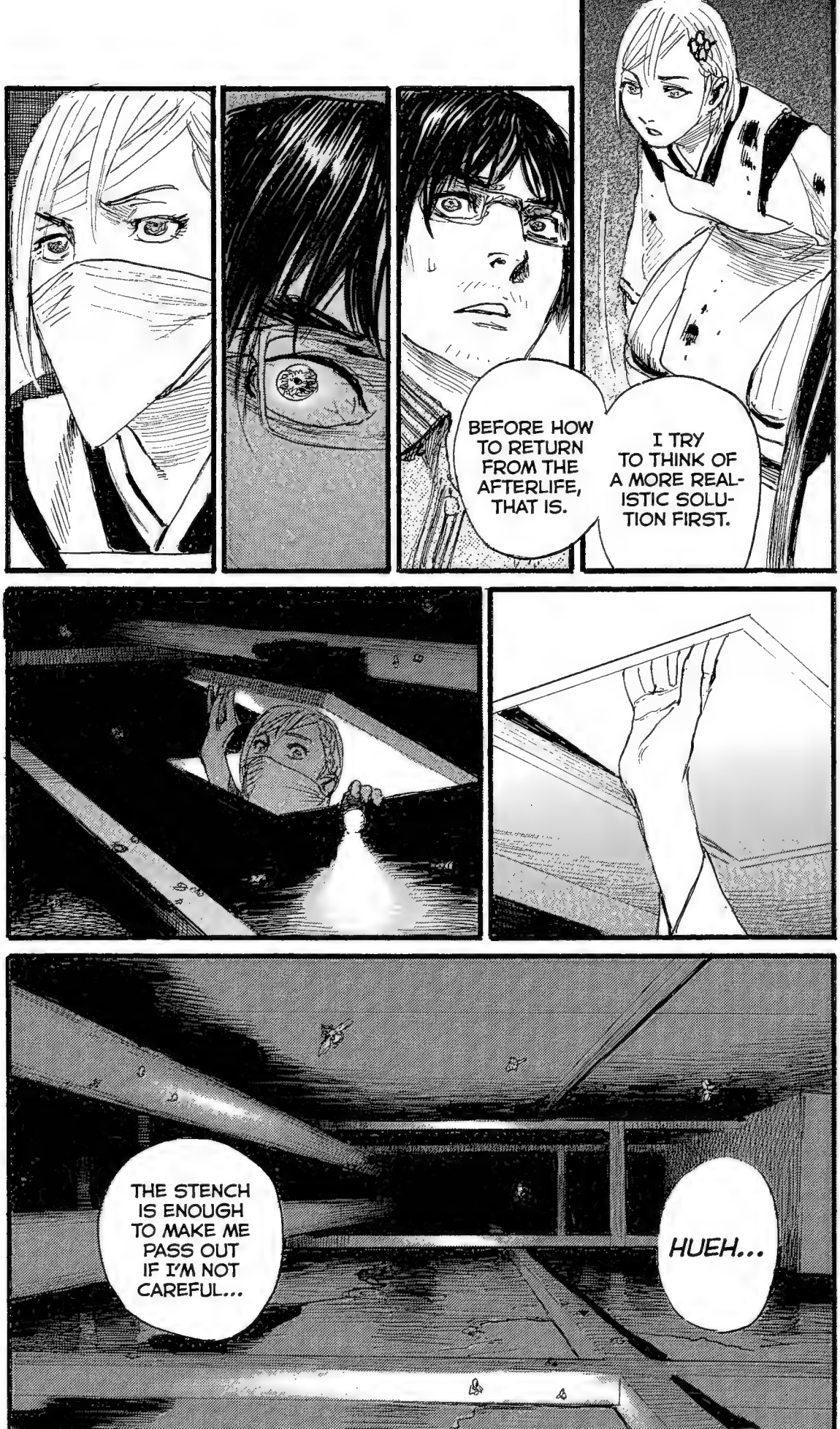

DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT DEEP WITHIN YOUR HEART...
YOU'VE ACCEPTED THAT RITSUKO-SAN IS DEAD?
WHEN I WROTE THAT...

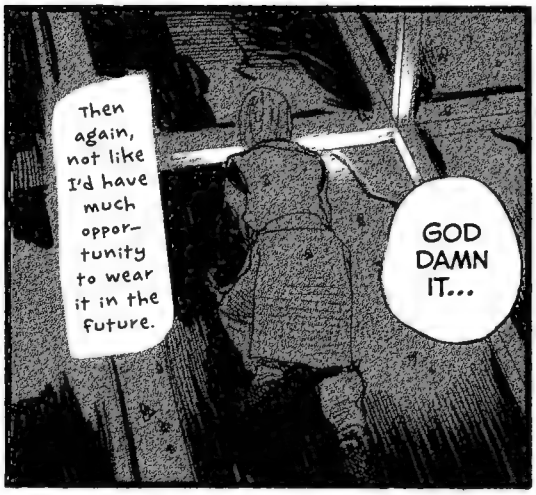
THIS FAX YOU SENT TO RADIO STATION.
IT CLEARLY SAYS, "MY GIRLFRIEND DIED."

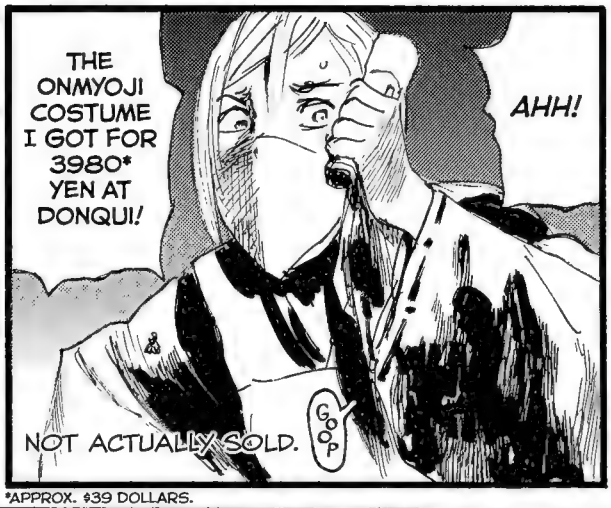

SINCE THE LAYOUT IS THE SAME AS MY PLACE...


OKI-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A FLASH-LIGHT?
OH... UMM... WHERE DID I PUT IT AGAIN?
I BROUGHT ONE WITH ME, MINARE-SAN!
Just in case, since it's night and all.

OKI-SAN, I'M NOT SURE...
What are you going to do?
I'll just be using this...
WHAT LIS-TENING TO MY SHOW MADE YOU THINK.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE NETHER-WORLD.

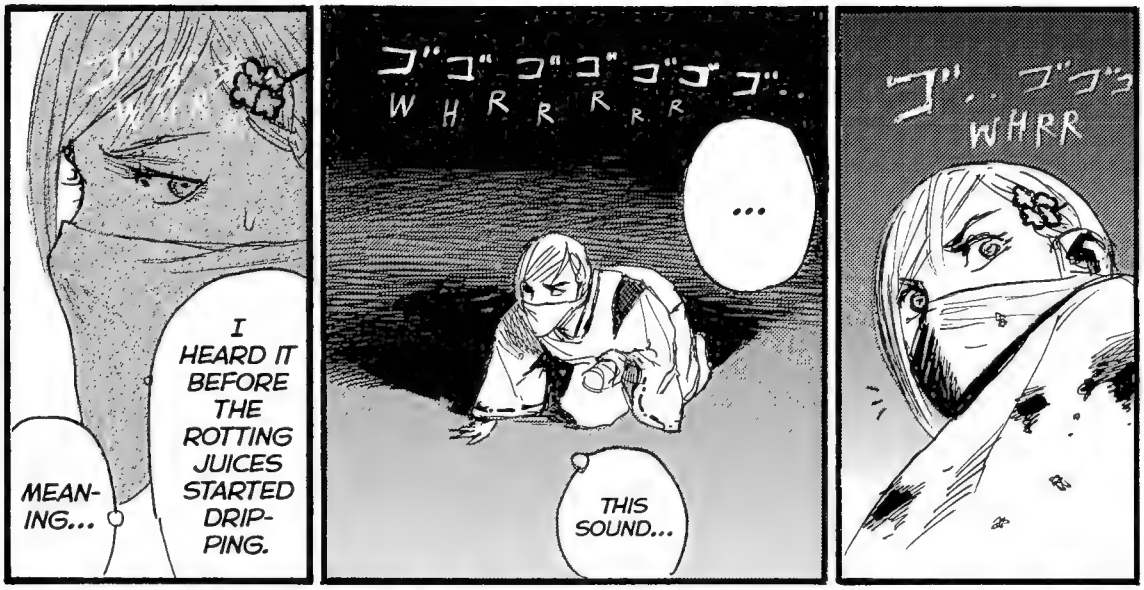

BEFORE HOW TO RETURN FROM THE AFTERLIFE, THAT IS.
I TRY TO THINK OF A MORE REALISTIC SOLUTION FIRST.
THE STENCH IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME PASS OUT IF I'M NOT CAREFUL...
HUEH...

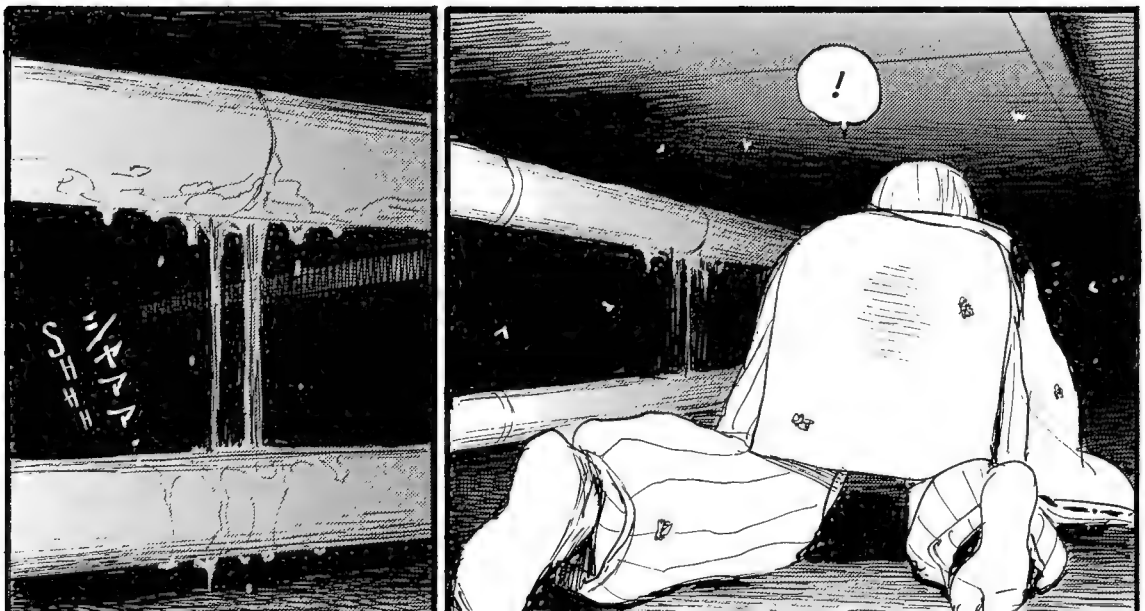


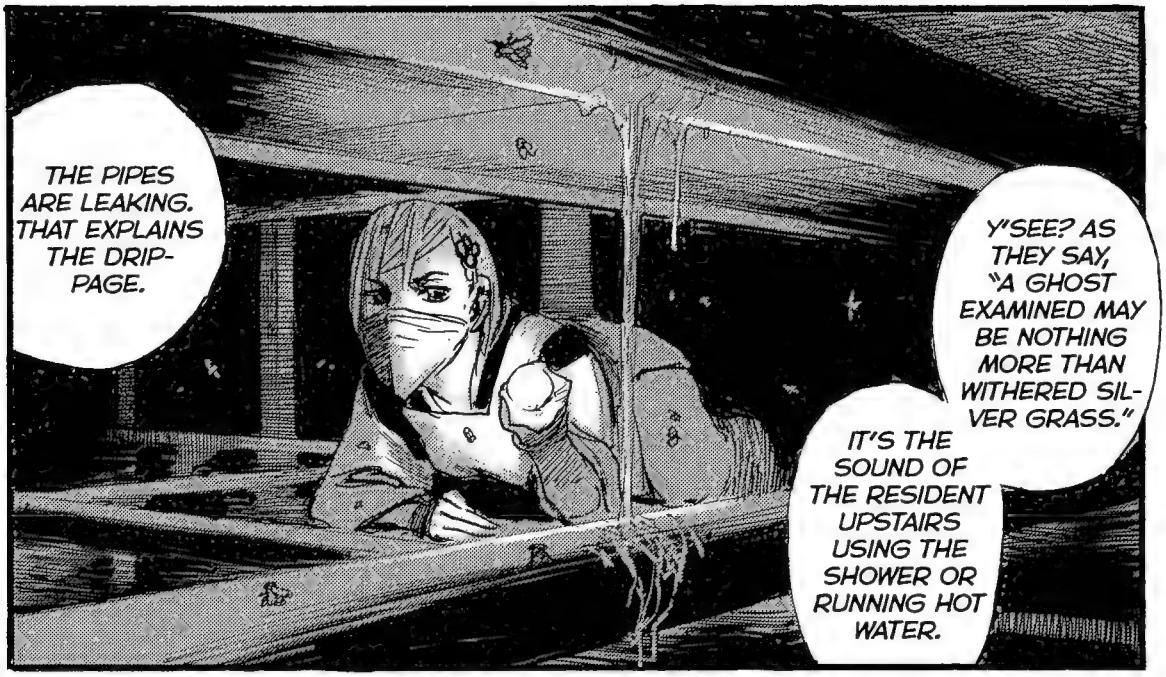


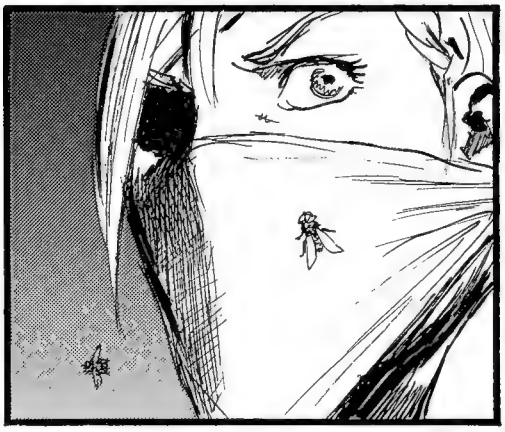
*APPROX. $39 DOLLARS.

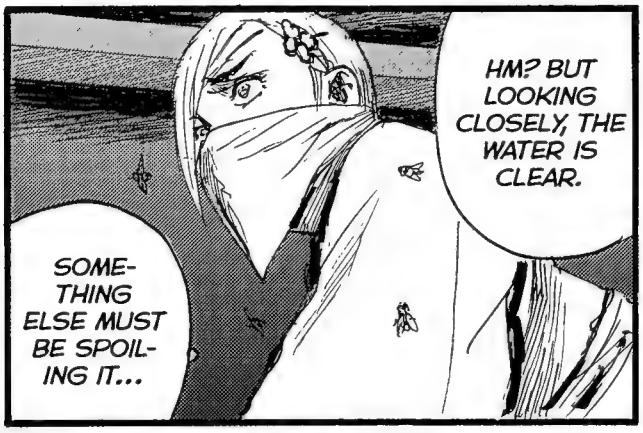
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
IT'S SO EASY TO TELL WHERE SHE IS...
UWOHHH! YOU WON'T BREAK ME!


I HEARD IT BEFORE THE ROTTING JUICES STARTED DRIPPING.
MEANING...
WHRRRRRR
...
THIS SOUND...
WHRR

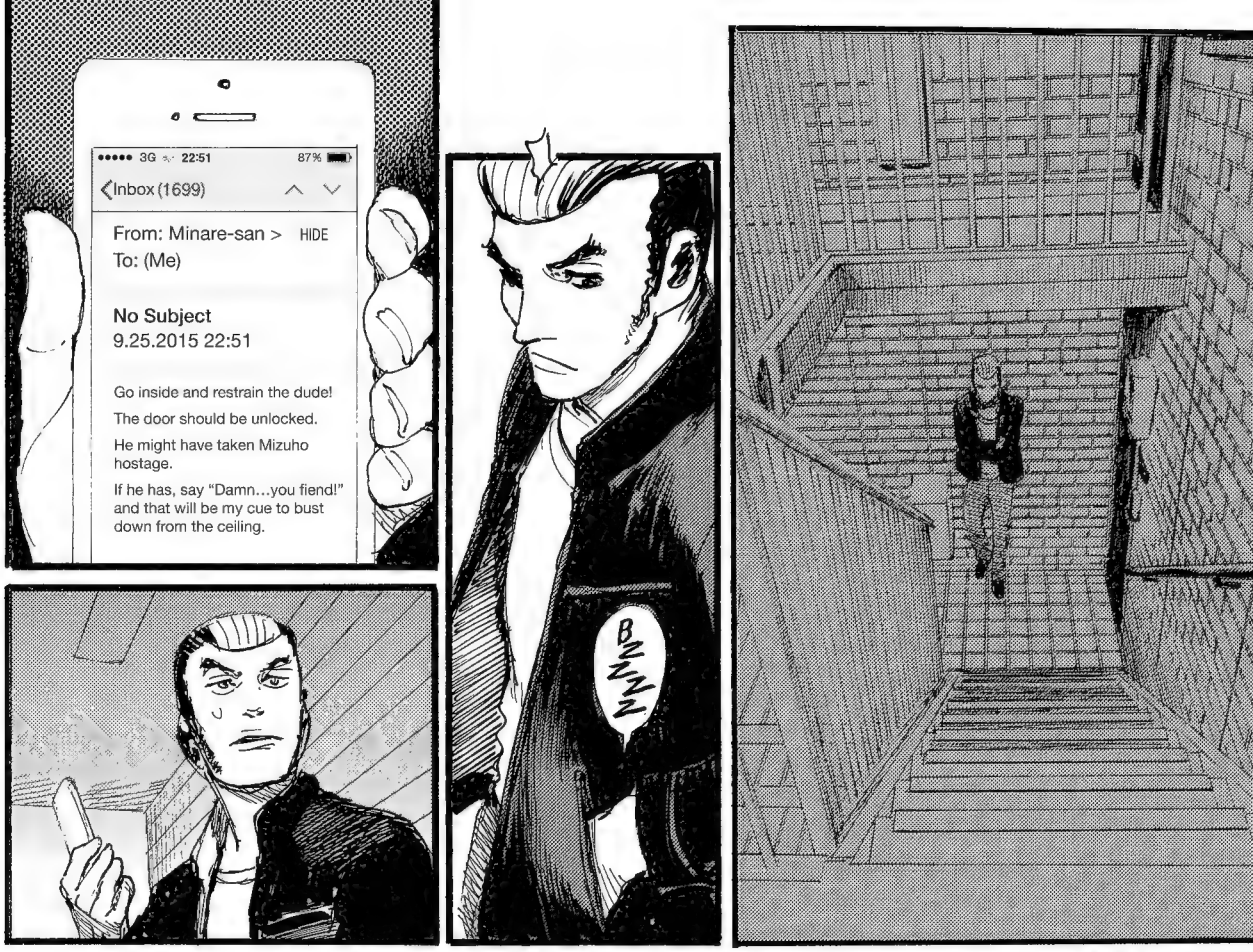

SHHH
!

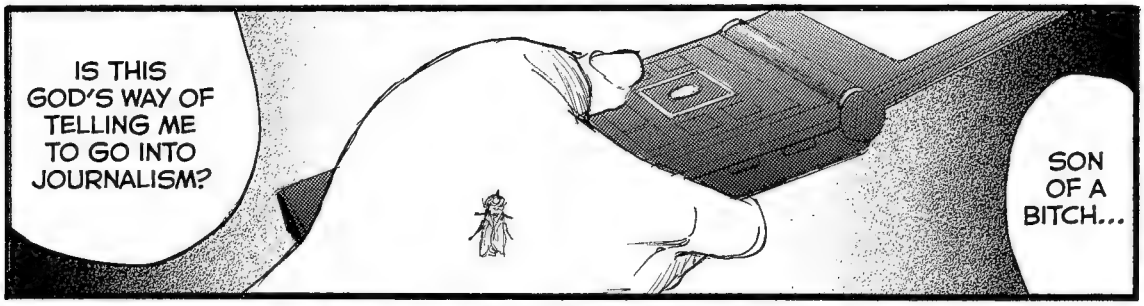

THE PIPES ARE LEAKING. THAT EXPLAINS THE DRIP-PAGE.
Y'SEE? AS THEY SAY, "A GHOST EXAMINED MAY BE NOTHING MORE THAN WITHERED SIL-VER GRASS."
IT'S THE SOUND OF THE RESIDENT UPSTAIRS USING THE SHOWER OR RUNNING HOT WATER.




HM? BUT LOOKING CLOSELY, THE WATER IS CLEAR.
SOME-THING ELSE MUST BE SPOIL-ING IT...

...WELL, SHIT.
FOUR...
FIVE... SIX...
ALTOGETH-ER, THAT'S ENOUGH TO FIT A SMALL WOMAN.


3G 22:51 87%
Inbox (1699)
From: Minare-san > HIDE
To: (Me)
No Subject
9.25.2015 22:51
Go inside and restrain the dude!
The door should be unlocked.
He might have taken Mizuho hostage.
If he has, say "Damn...you fiend!" and that will be my cue to bust down from the ceiling.
BZNNN


IS THIS GOD'S WAY OF TELLING ME TO GO INTO JOURNALISM?
SON OF A BITCH...

I FOUND A ROTTING CORPSE. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
UMM...
Yeah, yeah. Excuse me for a sec...
Hello. This is the northern Sapporo police department-
Ahh! Who are you?!
CLACK

Chapter 2 「I WANT TO CRY.」

NO... IT WASN'T ME...
I DIDN'T KILL ANY-ONE...

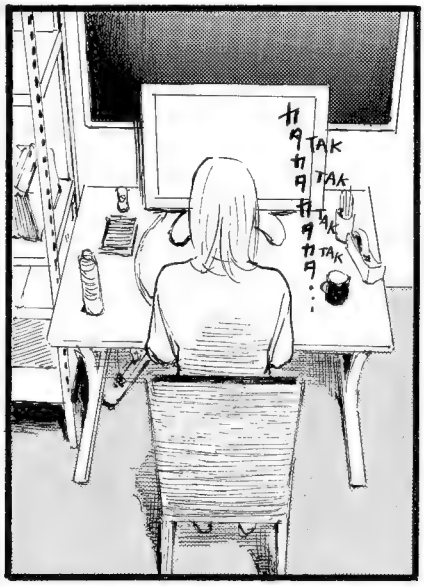
WE DEFEATED EVIL.

AM I QUALIFIED TO MAKE THAT JUDG-MENT?
ACTUALLY...
WAS HE REALLY AN EVIL-DOER?

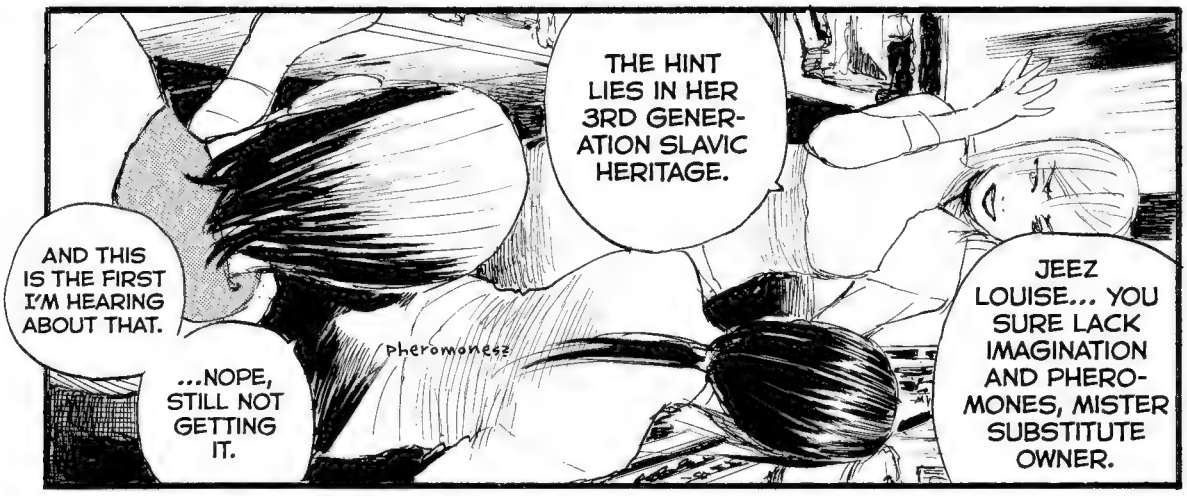
...WILL EVEN-TUALLY SHED LIGHT ON HIS CRIMES.
I'M SURE THE POLICE...
IF THE TRAGEDIES BORN FROM THE TANGLE OF AFFECTION BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN COULD ALL BE CATEGORIZED BY DUALISM, THEN HOW MEANING-LESS WOULD THIS WORLD TRULY BE?

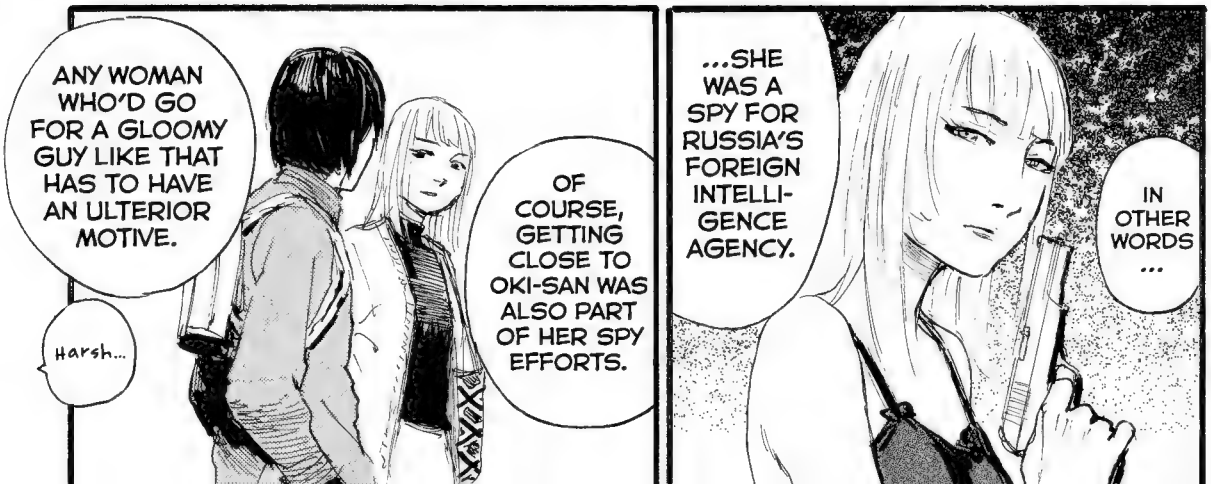
How is everyone taking advantage of this fine fall day?
For reasons I won't mention, I watched the uncensored version of in the ***Realm of the Senses*** last night, and after writing about in anguish for about an hour, I found myself pondering in the wake of the love-hate tragedy. I recall reading a quote by Sada Abe that goes something like, ***"I am positive that there are other women in the world who have thought about doing what I've done. They simply don't act on it."*** I think I finally understand what she meant by that. For example, if I were in someone like Sada's or Medea's shoes, the fact that I can't deny the possibility that I might kill out of love for a man or my children irritates me to no end. Despite having been on this planet for over 250,000 years, I find it surprising that mankind has yet to reach the agape which goes beyond simple familial and romantic love, and when I think about what might be responsible for this stagnation, the only thing I can come up with is western capitalism.

As for the bread of the day, we have the Danish trekornbrød, as well as the Middle East's ***pita bread.***
Trekornbrød uses a dough of whole wheat, rye, and black sesame, which is then topped with white sesame seeds to make for an overall

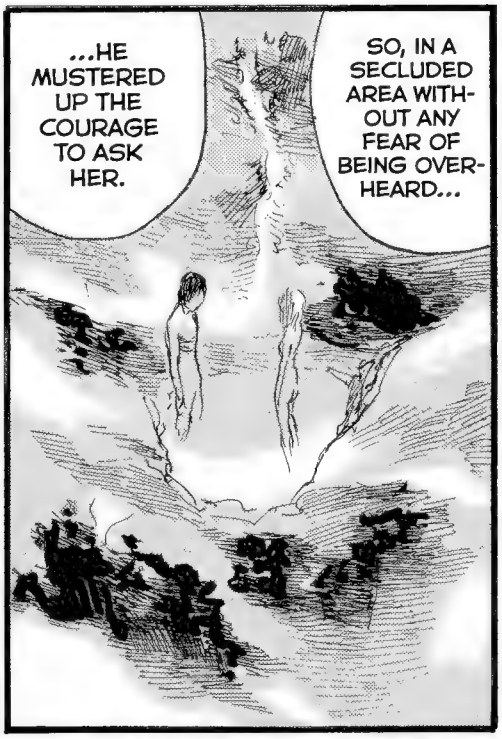


I SEE...
FORENSICS CAME IN WHILE I WAS BEING QUESTIONED.
APPARENTLY, IT REALLY WAS A CHOPPED-UP CORPSE.
AND THE DECAY WAS SO FAR ALONG THAT THEY COULDN'T DETERMINE IF IT WAS EVEN MALE OR FEMALE AT THIS POINT.
BUT FROM WHAT YOU TOLD ME, MINARE-SAN...
WHILE HIS BEHAVIOR SEEMED A LITTLE ERRATIC, THEY CAME ACROSS AS A HAPPY COUPLE, RIGHT?
I WONDER WHAT MADE HIM KILL HIS GIRLFRIEND.


THE HINT LIES IN HER 3RD GENERATION SLAVIC HERITAGE.
JEEZ LOUISE... YOU SURE LACK IMAGINATION AND PHEROMONES, MISTER SUBSTITUTE OWNER.
AND THIS IS THE FIRST I'M HEARING ABOUT THAT.
...NOPE, STILL NOT GETTING IT.
pheromonesz

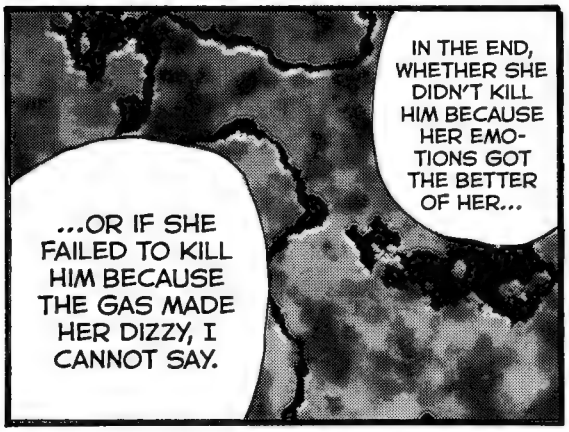

...SHE WAS A SPY FOR RUSSIA'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.
IN OTHER WORDS ...
OF COURSE, GETTING CLOSE TO OKI-SAN WAS ALSO PART OF HER SPY EFFORTS.
ANY WOMAN WHO'D GO FOR A GLOOMY GUY LIKE THAT HAS TO HAVE AN ULTERIOR MOTIVE.
Harsh...

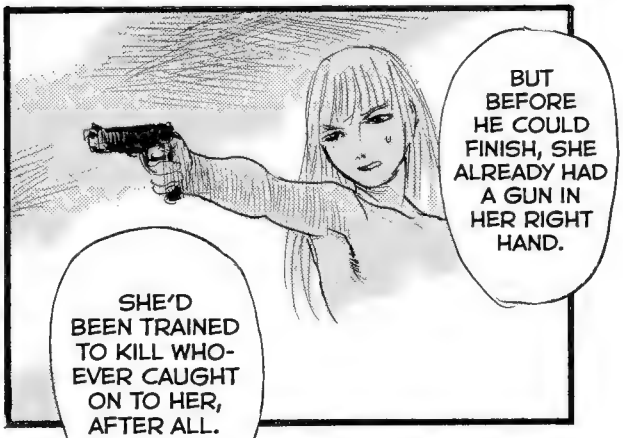
RITSU-KO...
WHO ARE YOU...?


SO, IN A SECLUDED AREA WITH-OUT ANY FEAR OF BEING OVER-HEARD...
...HE MUSTERED UP THE COURAGE TO ASK HER.

BUT AS IT TURNS OUT...
OKI-SAN WAS VAGUE-LY SUSPI-CIOUS OF HER ALL ALONG.

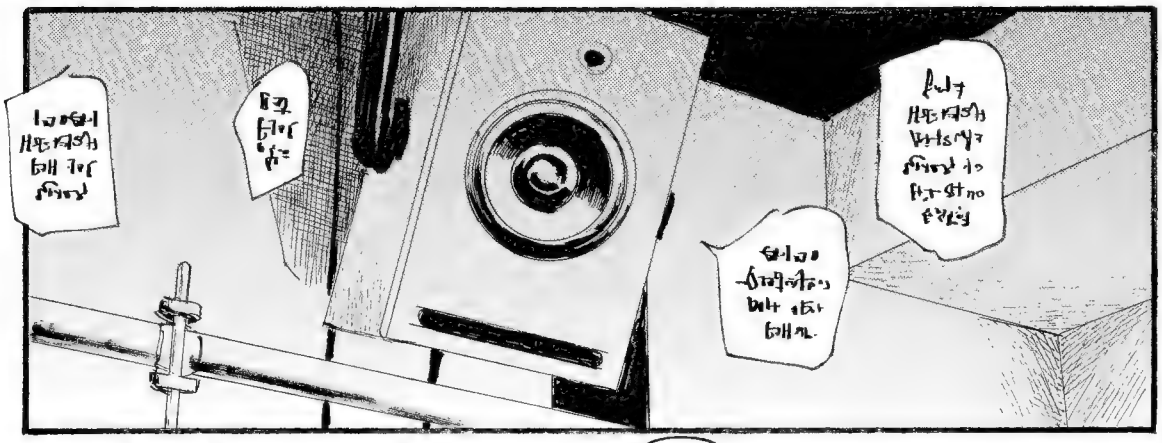
TALK TO ME, PLEASE. I'LL ACCEPT ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY.
AND I'LL PROBABLY FORGET IT ALL BY TOMORROW THANKS TO THIS GAS...
THERE WERE NO TRACES OF A "RITSUKO AZOHARA."
THE PUBLIC HOUSING YOU SUPPOSEDLY GREW UP IN. THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOU CLAIMED TO GO TO. NO MATTER WHERE I CHECKED...


...OR IF SHE FAILED TO KILL HIM BECAUSE THE GAS MADE HER DIZZY, I CANNOT SAY.
IN THE END, WHETHER SHE DIDN'T KILL HIM BECAUSE HER EMO-TIONS GOT THE BETTER OF HER...


SHE'D BEEN TRAINED TO KILL WHO-EVER CAUGHT ON TO HER, AFTER ALL.
BUT BEFORE HE COULD FINISH, SHE ALREADY HAD A GUN IN HER RIGHT HAND.

THE FACT THAT HE DID SO UNCONSCIOUSLY WAS BECAUSE HE, TOO, HAD THE MAKINGS OF A SERIAL KILLER.
BUT THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, OKI-SAN HAD ALREADY BASHED IN HER HEAD WITH A ROCK LAYING NEARBY.
PA PARA PAA PAA
I WAS JUST THINKING IT'D BE ROMANTIC IF THAT WERE THE CASE! LIKE A GREEK TRAGEDY OR SOMETHING!
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D FIND ALL THAT OUT IN A JUST A FEW HOURS!
WOW. I GOTTA HAND IT TO THE POLICE FOR FIGURING OUT THAT MUCH LESS THAN A DAY LATER.
HELLO?
OH...YES. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YESTERDAY.
ROMANTIC HOW...?
NOPE. THE NORTH SAPPORO POLICE.
WAS THAT MATO-SAN?
I SEE... I CAN PROBABLY MANAGE AROUND 3:30 OR SO. THAT'S FINE? ALL RIGHT, THEN.
YES... HUH?! NO, I'M A LITTLE TIED UP RIGHT NOW...

WHETHER OR NOT I WAS SLEEPING WITH OKI-SAN, I RECKON.
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WANT TO ASK YOU ABOUT?
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, I COULD BECOME A MURDER SUSPECT, TOO, RIGHT?
VOYAGER
SHE SOUNDS SO GIDDY...
THEY SAY THEY WANT TO CONFIRM SOMETHING WITH ME...
...SO I'M GONNA DROP BY THE STATION AFTER THE LUNCH RUSH IS OVER.



THE DISTORTION'S PRETTY TERRIBLE.
WE WON'T BE able TO USE THIS UNLESS WE TINKER WITH IT QUITE A BIT.
I'M SORRY... I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER TO TAKE THE RECORDER OUT OF HER POCKET.
Uwohh! You won't break meee!
CAN WE USE THE CAMERA'S AUDIO?

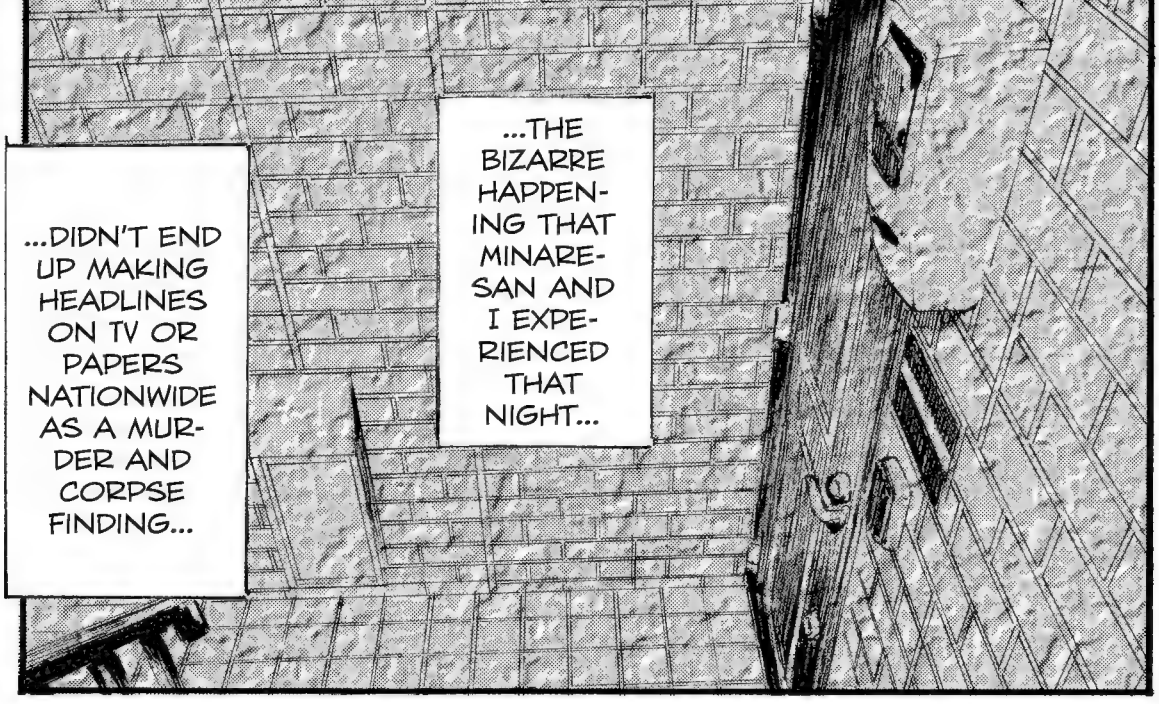
OH, GOD! IT WAS JUST AWFUL!
I HAD TO TAKE THREE SHOWERS IN ORDER TO GET THE STENCH OFF!
HA HA HA!
WELL, WE CAN PROBABLY GET BY WITH A TALK SHOW,
GIVEN THE KINDA EPISODE YOU TWO WENT THROUGH, AFTER ALL.
RIGHT NOW, ADVER-TISEMENTS FOR WAVE, LISTEN TO ME....
CAN BE FOUND ON THE STATION'S HOMEPAGE,
BUT EVEN IN-CLUDING RADIO LOVERS, THERE AREN'T MANY LISTENERS WHO ACTUALLY CHECK THE STATION'S WEBSITE.
I KNOW IT'S IN BAD TASTE TO SAY THIS SINCE SOMEONE LOST THEIR LIFE...
BUT THIS COULD MAKE FOR GOOD PRESS FOR THE SHOW IF WE PLAY OUR CARDS RIGHT.
HOW-EVER...
...IF WE MANAGE TO CATCH A WAVE, THEN THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING.

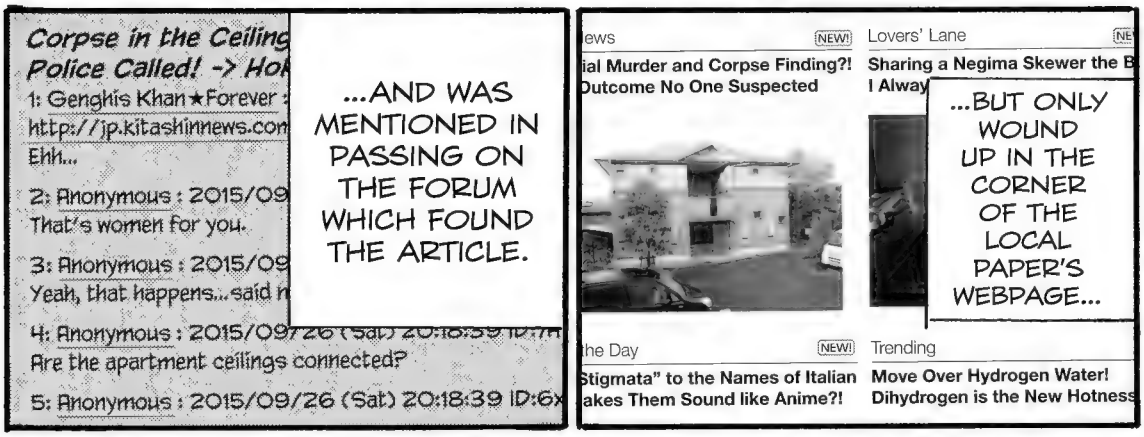
This is *News Pickup*, news at nine.
At a north Sapporo apartment around 11 p.m. last night...
SO, ABOUT THAT DUMPED BODY THAT'S ALL OVER THE NEWS RIGHT NOW.
GET THIS, APPARENTLY THE ONE WHO FOUND IT WAS ONE OF MRS'S RADIO PERSONALITIES.
WHOA-HO!

OH, I SEE NOW.
THERE ARE SIX NEWS SHOWS SCHEDULED UNTIL THE THIRD BROADCAST.
WITH THIS MANY FOLLOW-UP REPORTS, WE SHOULD BE GOLDEN.

OOP! THERE'S OUR GIRL.

MMBLE
GRRR
THE ODORI PARK ZOMBIE WALK STARTED TODAY?
OH, MAN. I TOTALLY FOR-GOT.
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S NEXT MONTH.
IN THE END...


...DIDN'T END UP MAKING HEADLINES ON TV OR PAPERS NATIONWIDE AS A MURDER AND CORPSE FINDING...
...THE BIZARRE HAPPENING THAT MINARE-SAN AND I EXPERIENCED THAT NIGHT...


Corpse in the Ceiling
Police Called! -> Hol
1: Genghis Khan★Forever
http://jp.kitashinnews.com
Ehh...
2: Anonymous : 2015/09
That's women for you.
3: Anonymous : 2015/09
Yeah, that happens... said n
4: Anonymous : 2015/09/26 (Sat) 20:18:39 ID:
Are the apartment ceilings connected?
5: Anonymous : 2015/09/26 (Sat) 20:18:39 ID:6x
...AND WAS MENTIONED IN PASSING ON THE FORUM WHICH FOUND THE ARTICLE.
News
NEW!
ial Murder and Corpse Finding?!
Outcome No One Suspected
Lovers' Lane
Sharing a Negima Skewer the B
I Alway
...BUT ONLY WOUND UP IN THE CORNER OF THE LOCAL PAPER'S WEBPAGE...
the Day
NEW!
Stigmata" to the Names of Italian
akes Them Sound like Anime?!
Trending
Move Over Hydrogen Water!
Dihydrogen is the New Hotness

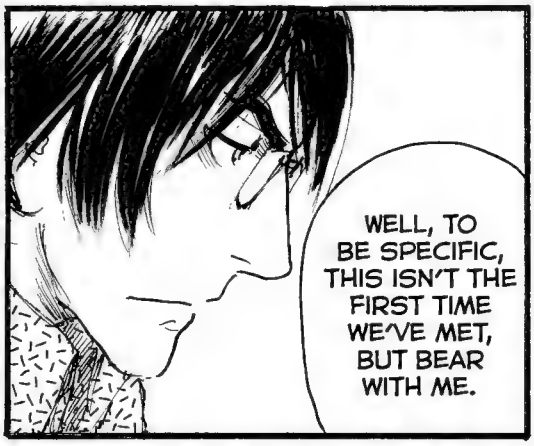
...THE DAY OF WAVE, LISTEN TO ME'S THIRD RECORDING ARRIVED.
AND SO...

CHA CHARA CHAA CHAA, CHA CHARA CHAA
CHA CHARA CHAA CHAA
CHA CHARA CHAA CHAA
MEEEE,
THIS IS MINARE KODA'S WAVE, LISTEN TO...
HOJOTOHO! HOJOTOHO!

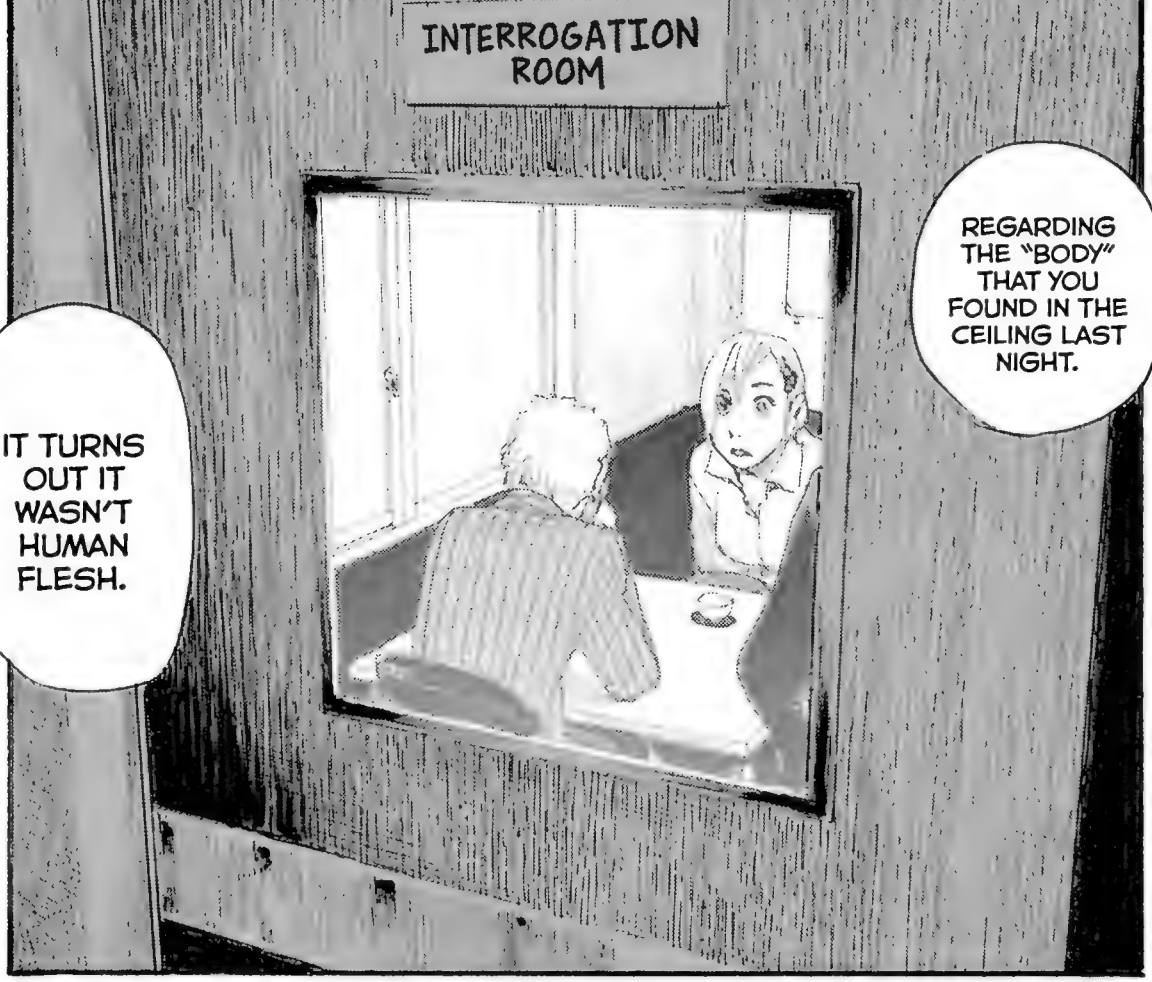
IT'S 3 A.M., A TIME WHEN EVEN PLANTS ARE ASLEEP.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT ALL YOU WHO HAVE STAYED UP THIS LATE TO LISTEN ARE HOPING TO HEAR.

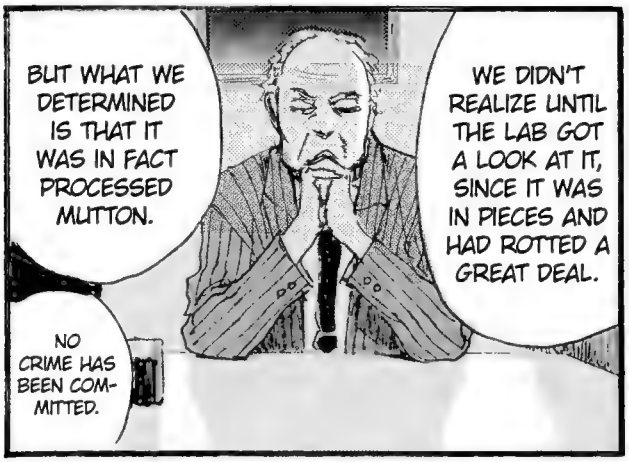
PLEASED TO MEET YOU... I'M ROOKIE RADIO PERSONALITY, MINARE KODA.
UHH...

UMM... REGARDING WHAT THE CONCEPT OF THIS SHOW IS, OR WHAT KIND OF FORMAT IT WILL TAKE,
BEFORE WE GET INTO THAT...
SHE'S SLURRING A LOT TODAY.
...I MUST FIRST USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APOLOGIZE TO A CERTAIN MAN AND THE WORLD AT LARGE.

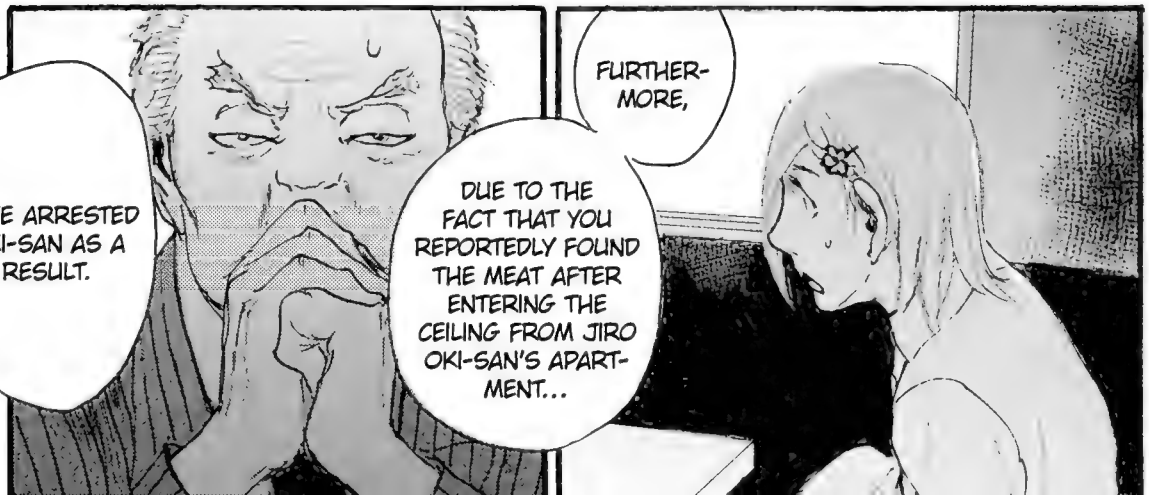

WELL, TO BE SPECIFIC, THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET, BUT BEAR WITH ME.

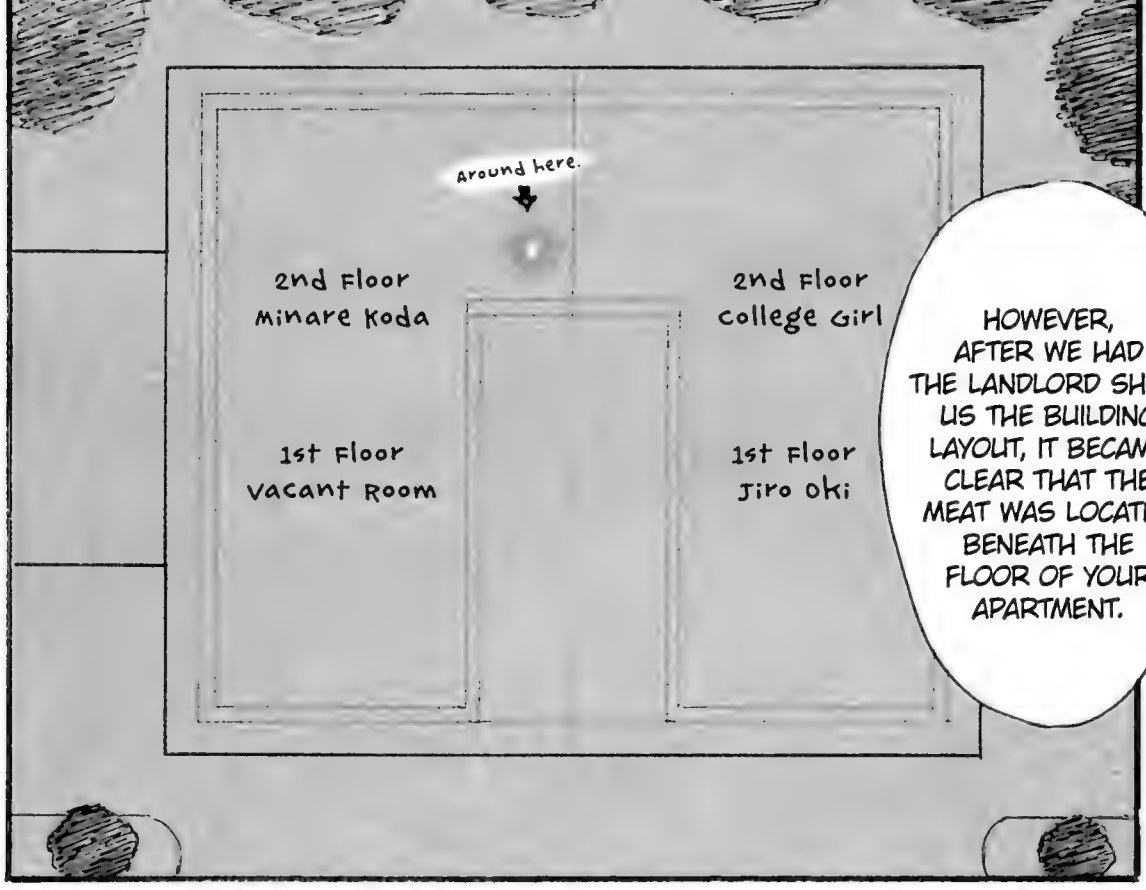
ERR... AS IT'S BEEN LISTED ON THE WEBSITES OF THE HOKKAIDO PRESS AND OTHER OUTLETS...
...I'M SURE SOME OF YOU ARE AWARE OF THIS LITTLE BIT OF NEWS, BUT...
03:32
Talk about that night.
03:40
Keep talking about that night.

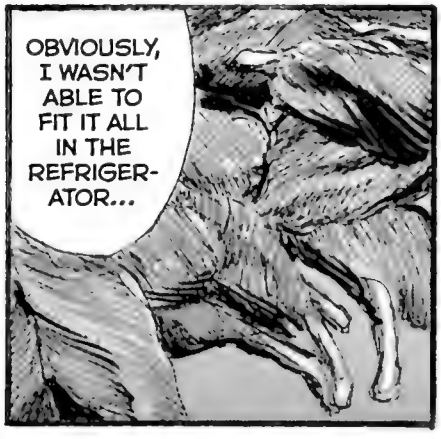

INTERROGATION ROOM
REGARDING THE "BODY" THAT YOU FOUND IN THE CEILING LAST NIGHT.
IT TURNS OUT IT WASN'T HUMAN FLESH.


WE DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL THE LAB GOT A LOOK AT IT, SINCE IT WAS IN PIECES AND HAD ROTTED A GREAT DEAL.
BUT WHAT WE DETERMINED IS THAT IT WAS IN FACT PROCESSED MUTTON.
NO CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED.

...COME AGAIN?


FURTHER-MORE,
DUE TO THE FACT THAT YOU REPORTEDLY FOUND THE MEAT AFTER ENTERING THE CEILING FROM JIRO OKI-SAN'S APARTMENT...
...WE ARRESTED OKI-SAN AS A RESULT.

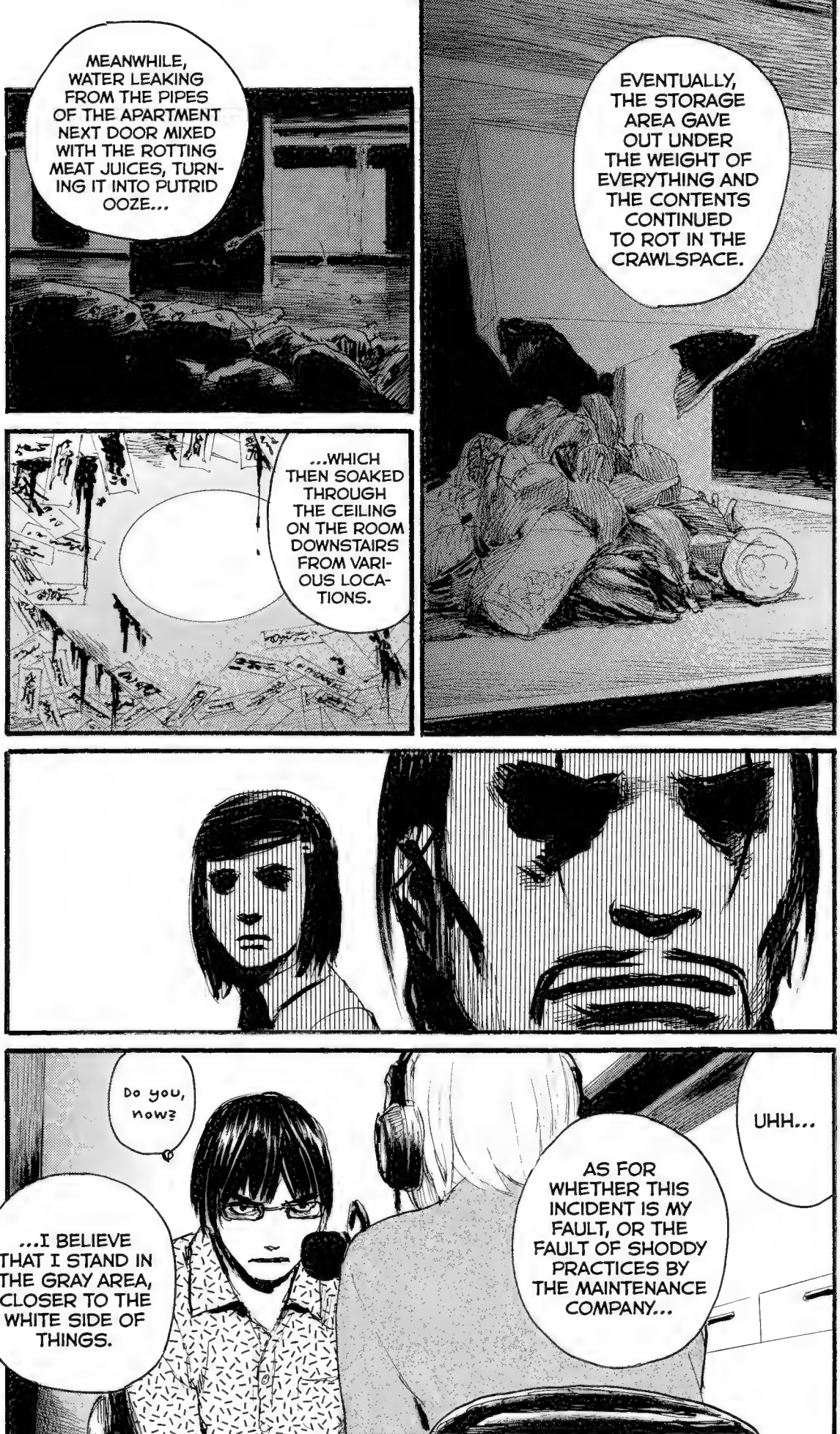

Around here.
2nd Floor
Minare Koda
2nd Floor
College Girl
1st Floor
Vacant Room
1st Floor
Jiro Oki
HOWEVER, AFTER WE HAD THE LANDLORD SHOW US THE BUILDING LAYOUT, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE MEAT WAS LOCATED BENEATH THE FLOOR OF YOUR APARTMENT.


OBVIOUSLY, I WASN'T ABLE TO FIT IT ALL IN THE REFRIGERATOR...

WHEN I MOVED TO SAPPORO FROM MY HOMETOWN OF KUSHIRO...
...I WAS GIVEN NEARLY 50KG WORTH OF BONE-IN MUTTON AND BOTTLED FRUIT WINES.

UMM...
THIS IS WHAT I BELIEVE TO BE THE CASE.

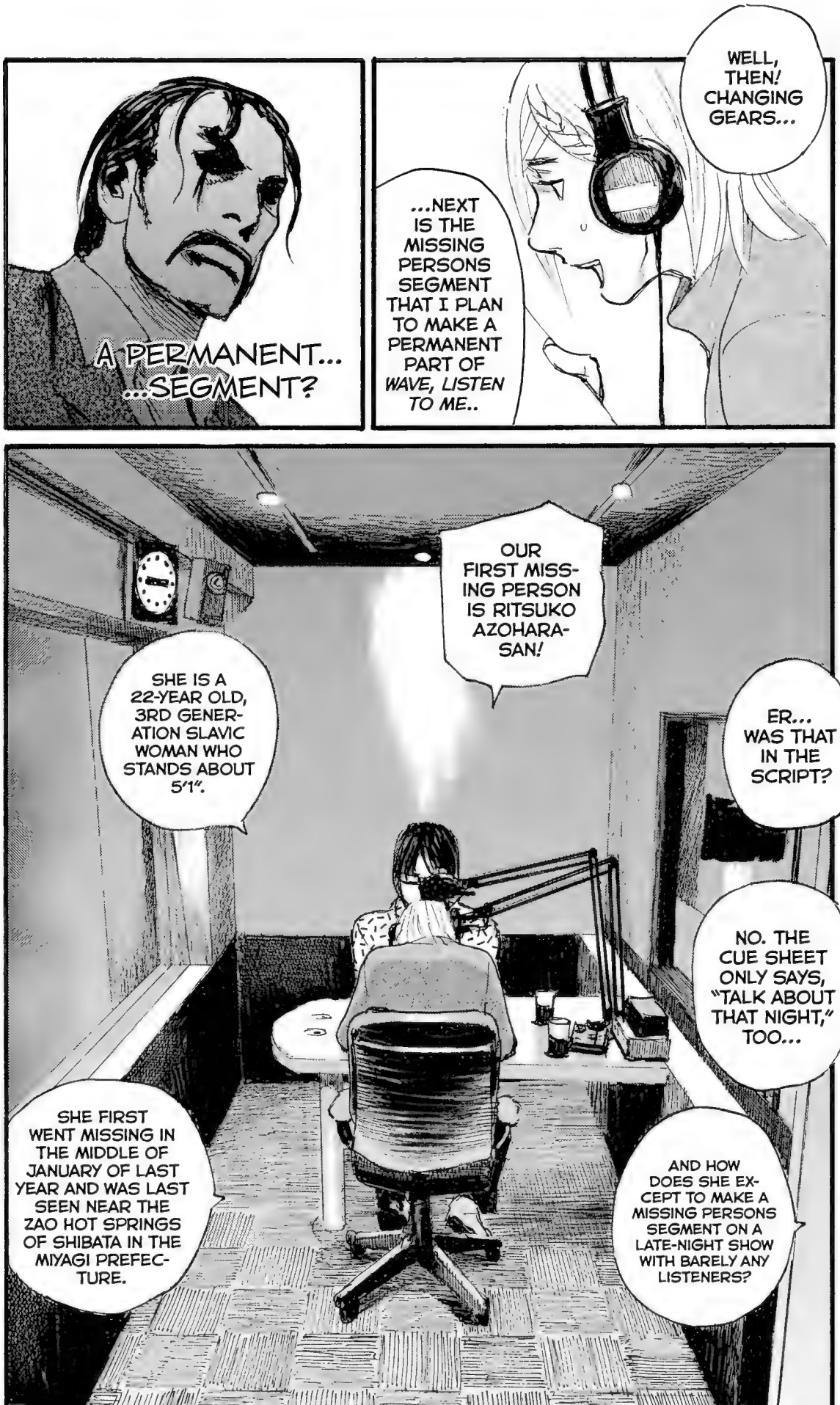
...AND ENDED UP COMPLETELY FORGETTING ABOUT IT.
...SO I STUFFED IT IN THE STORAGE BENEATH THE FLOOR AS A TEMPORARY SOLUTION...


MEANWHILE, WATER LEAKING FROM THE PIPES OF THE APARTMENT NEXT DOOR MIXED WITH THE ROTTING MEAT JUICES, TURNING IT INTO PUTRID OOZE...
EVENTUALLY, THE STORAGE AREA GAVE OUT UNDER THE WEIGHT OF EVERYTHING AND THE CONTENTS CONTINUED TO ROT IN THE CRAWLSPACE.
...WHICH THEN SOAKED THROUGH THE CEILING ON THE ROOM DOWNSTAIRS FROM VARIOUS LOCATIONS.
Do you, now?
...I BELIEVE THAT I STAND IN THE GRAY AREA, CLOSER TO THE WHITE SIDE OF THINGS.
AS FOR WHETHER THIS INCIDENT IS MY FAULT, OR THE FAULT OF SHODDY PRACTICES BY THE MAINTENANCE COMPANY...
UHH...

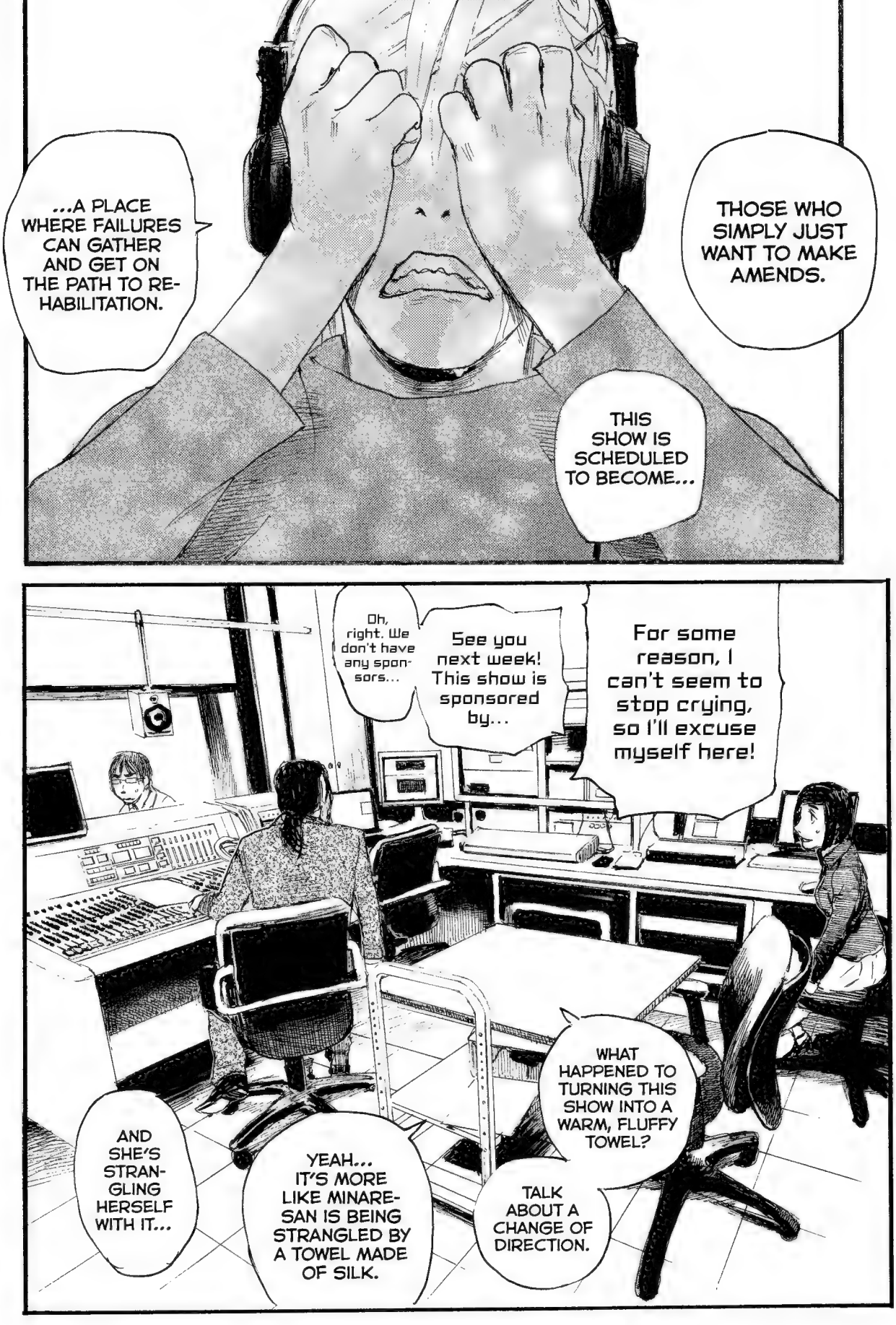
...AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, CREATED A DISTURBANCE FOR THE NEIGHBORS...
...WHICH LED TO FOUR SQUAD CARS SHOWING UP AT THE APARTMENT BUILDING...
...FOR CALLING THE POLICE ON AN INNOCENT MAN UNDER THE ACCUSATION OF MURDER...
EVEN THOUGH I AM ONLY HALF AT FAULT...
...I THINK I REEEALLY SCREWED UP BIG TIME. I'M SORRY.
PHEW. THAT BEING SAID...
...

...TO TALK ABOUT ALL KINDS OF CRAZY STUFF FROM MURDER, TO ALIENS, TO MT. FUJI.
BUT, UHH, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
...UNTIL NOW, I'VE USED THIS TIME...

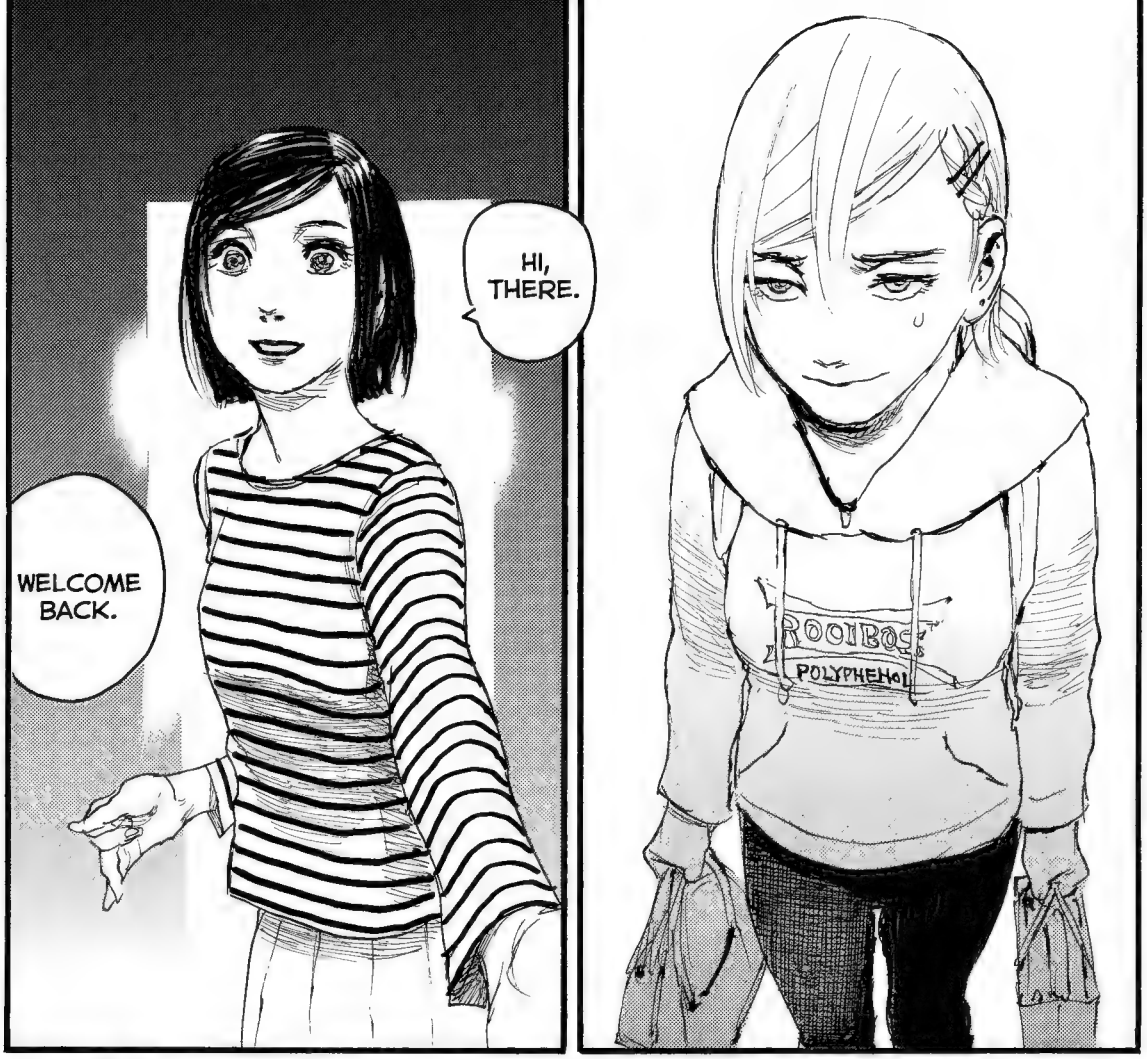
...WAS THE MOST BIZARRE OF ALL.
IT SEEMS THAT REALITY...


A PERMANENT...
...SEGMENT?
...NEXT IS THE MISSING PERSONS SEGMENT THAT I PLAN TO MAKE A PERMANENT PART OF *WAVE, LISTEN TO ME..*
WELL, THEN! CHANGING GEARS...
OUR FIRST MISSING PERSON IS RITSUKO AZOHARA-SAN!
SHE IS A 22-YEAR OLD, 3RD GENERATION SLAVIC WOMAN WHO STANDS ABOUT 5'1".
ER... WAS THAT IN THE SCRIPT?
NO. THE CUE SHEET ONLY SAYS, "TALK ABOUT THAT NIGHT," TOO...
SHE FIRST WENT MISSING IN THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY OF LAST YEAR AND WAS LAST SEEN NEAR THE ZAO HOT SPRINGS OF SHIBATA IN THE MIYAGI PREFECTURE.
AND HOW DOES SHE EXCEPT TO MAKE A MISSING PERSONS SEGMENT ON A LATE-NIGHT SHOW WITH BARELY ANY LISTENERS?

IF ANYONE KNOWS SOMEONE WHO MATCHES THIS DESCRIPTION...
How's that?
...PLEASE CONTACT THE STATION. EMAILS, FAX, POSTCARDS, LETTERS, ANYTHING WORKS.
That'll do. I'll drop the lawsuit.
NOW, THEN! TODAY MARKS THE FIRST OFFICIAL BROADCAST...
OF MINARE KODA'S *WAVE, LISTEN TO ME..*
PHEEEEW
THIS SHOW IS DEDICATED...
...TO THOSE OUT THERE WHOSE LIVES ARE BUILT ON INCONVENIENCING OTHERS.
THOSE WHO HAVE HURT PEOPLE CLOSE TO THEM.
THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE WRONG CHOICES IN LIFE.
MRS
THOSE WHO, EVEN THOUGH WE CAN'T UNDO OUR LIVES...
...DON'T WANT PRETEND LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.

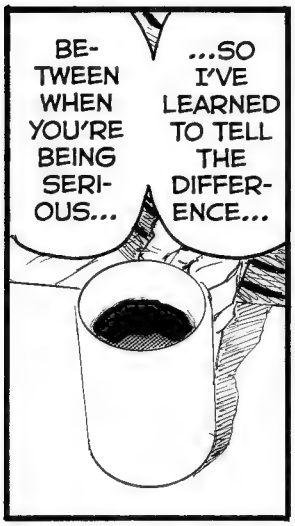

...A PLACE WHERE FAILURES CAN GATHER AND GET ON THE PATH TO REHABILITATION.
THOSE WHO SIMPLY JUST WANT TO MAKE AMENDS.
THIS SHOW IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME...
Oh, right. We don't have any sponsors...
See you next week! This show is sponsored by...
For some reason, I can't seem to stop crying, so I'll excuse myself here!
AND SHE'S STRANGLING HERSELF WITH IT...
YEAH... IT'S MORE LIKE MINARE-SAN IS BEING STRANGLED BY A TOWEL MADE OF SILK.
TALK ABOUT A CHANGE OF DIRECTION.
WHAT HAPPENED TO TURNING THIS SHOW INTO A WARM, FLUFFY TOWEL?

Chapter 8 「I WANT TO SUPPORT YOU.」

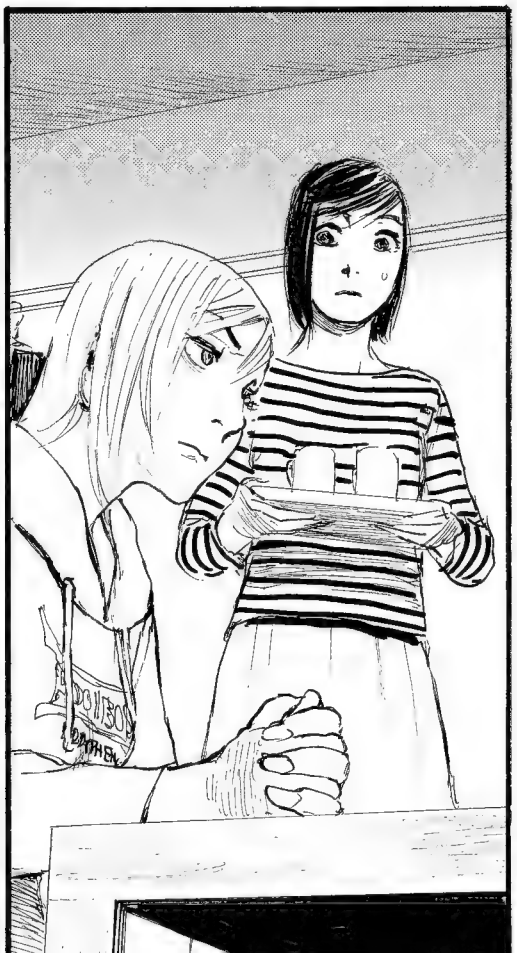

HI, THERE.
WELCOME BACK.
ROOIBOS
POLYPHENOL

AFTER THE COMMOTION THE OTHER DAY, THE MAN LIVING ON THE FLOOR BELOW MINARE-SAN, JIRO OKI, HAD TO LEAVE HIS APARTMENT SO THE UNIT COULD BE CLEANED. MINARE-SAN IS LETTING HIM USE HER ROOM IN THE MEANTIME.
MIZU-HO...
YOU'VE FALLEN INTO THE ROLE OF NARRATOR SINCE THE LAST CHAPTER SO NATU-RALLY.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

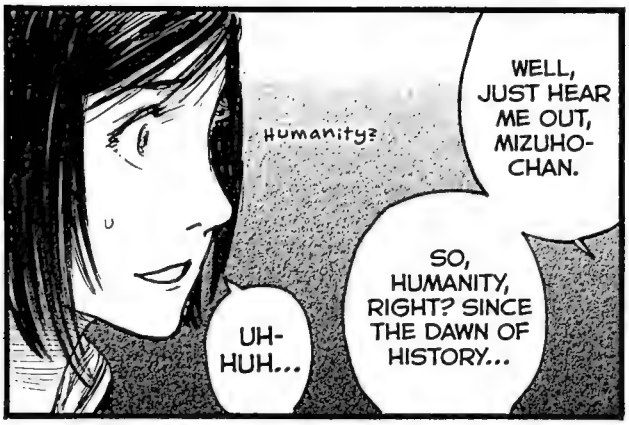
I'M THINK-ING...
...ABOUT BECOMING A NUN.


BE-TWEEN WHEN YOU'RE BEING SERI-OUS...
...SO I'VE LEARNED TO TELL THE DIFFER-ENCE...

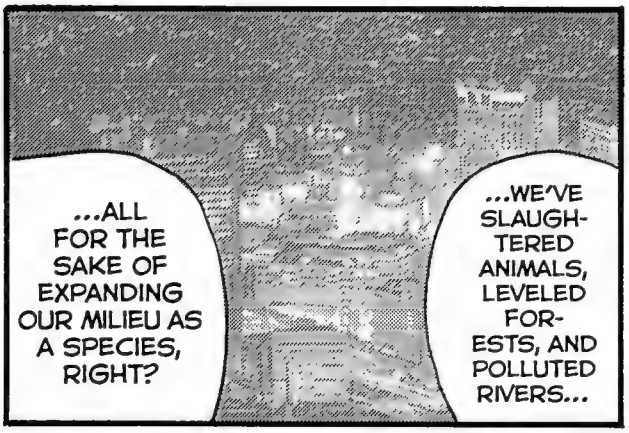
MINARE-SAN...
I'VE LIVED WITH YOU FOR SOME TIME NOW...



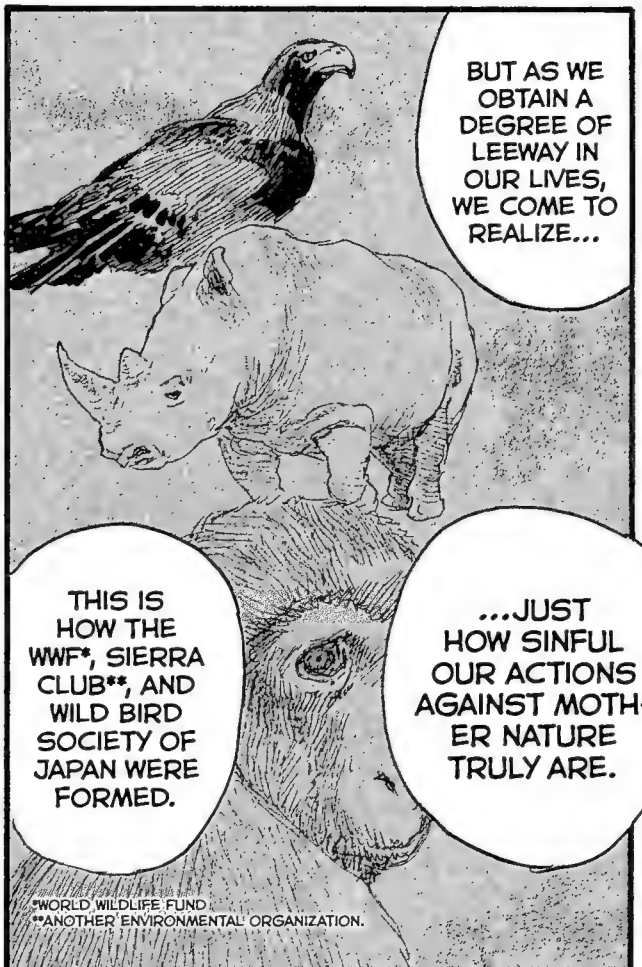
NO!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG, MIZUHO-SAN!
...AND WHEN YOU'LL PROBABLY BE SINGING A DIFFER-ENT TUNE IN A FEW DAYS.


Humanity?
UH-HUH...
SO, HUMANITY, RIGHT? SINCE THE DAWN OF HISTORY...
WELL, JUST HEAR ME OUT, MIZUHO-CHAN.

I'M ABSO-LUTELY SERIOUS SOME OF THOSE TIMES!
MEANT TO DENY BUT ENDED UP AFFIRMING.


...WE'VE SLAUGHTERED ANIMALS, LEVELED FORESTS, AND POLLUTED RIVERS...
...ALL FOR THE SAKE OF EXPANDING OUR MILIEU AS A SPECIES, RIGHT?

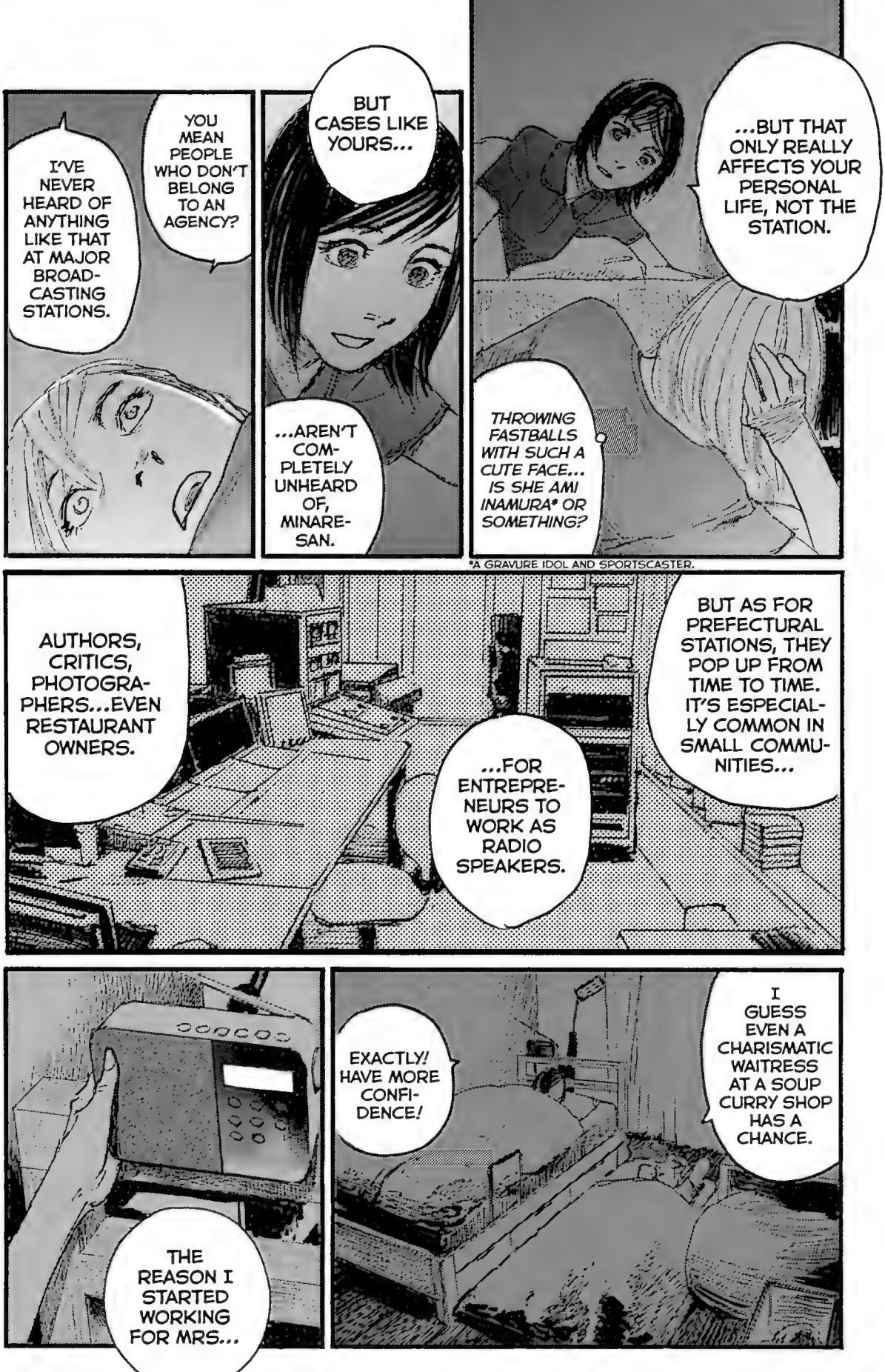
THAT IS PRECISELY HOW I FEEL AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME HOW MY SELFISHNESS WAS LEADING TO THE DESTRUCTION OF OTHERS!
HER DOWNSTAIRS NEIGHBOR IS ON THE SAME LEVEL AS A WILD BIRD.


BUT AS WE OBTAIN A DEGREE OF LEEWAY IN OUR LIVES, WE COME TO REALIZE...
...JUST HOW SINFUL OUR ACTIONS AGAINST MOTHER NATURE TRULY ARE.
THIS IS HOW THE WWF*, SIERRA CLUB**, AND WILD BIRD SOCIETY OF JAPAN WERE FORMED.
*WORLD WILDLIFE FUND
**ANOTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION.

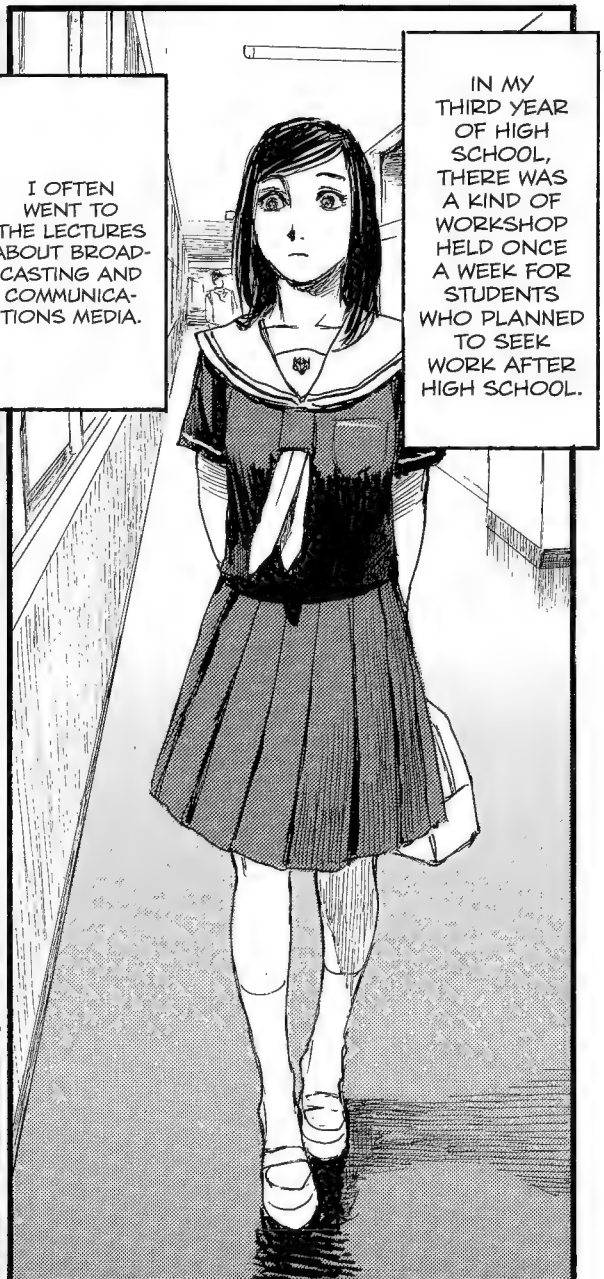
YOUR LIFE AND COURTESY ARE SO MODEST.
PLUS, YOU MAKE TEA AT ANY OPPORTUNITY.
NO MATTER HOW EXHAUSTED YOU ARE, YOU CHANGE THE TURTLES' WATER TWICE A WEEK WITHOUT FAIL.
AND YOU ALWAYS SERVE SIDE DISHES YOU BUY ON A PLATE.
I KNOW IT'S WEIRD TO SAY THIS SINCE I'M IMPOSING ON YOU,
BUT LIVING WITH YOU HAS LEFT ME STRICKEN WITH GRIEF IN A LOT OF WAYS, MIZUHO-CHAN.
WHY'S THAT?
I BORROWED A DVD OF *ONNA TAIKOKI** FROM A FRIEND, BUT WHEN I RETURNED IT, I PUT A COPY OF *SHOGUN'S SADISM*** INSIDE INSTEAD... IT'S JUST ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER!
*A JAPANESE PERIOD DRAMA FROM THE 80S.
**A JAPANESE SPLATTER FILM.
ON THE OTHER HAND, JUST LOOK AT ME!
AND I HAVE AT LEAST TEN WIDOWED SOCKS THAT DON'T MATCH IN MY DRAWER.
I WATER DOWN INSTANT COFFEE AS MUCH AS I CAN AND SERVE IT TO GUESTS AS BARLEY TEA...
I don't think the latter is what you think it is...
MINARE-SAN...
SO I'VE DECIDED...
...TO DEVOTE THE REST OF MY LIFE TO PRAYING FOR PEACE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS!
I DID SOME RESEARCH, AND IT TURNS OUT THERE ARE PROGRAMS LIKE "NUN FOR A DAY" OR "NUN PLAY" OFFERED IN SAPPORO, SO I'M GONNA GO CHECK IT OUT.

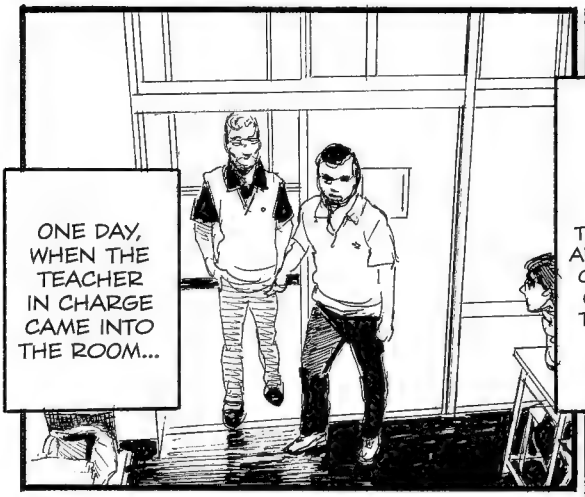
EVEN IF I CAN LOOK AFTER OTHERS, IT DOESN'T MEAN I'M CAPABLE OF ANYTHING MYSELF.
BUT... HOW DO I PUT IT?
THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT GOING FOR ME, REALLY.
I'VE BEEN TOLD THINGS LIKE THAT SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
"YOU'RE SO NICE. YOU'RE SO CONSIDERATE. YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS."
I LIKE AND LOOK UP TO YOU, MINARE-SAN.
JUST WATCHING YOU MAKES MY HEART RACE...
...BUT YOU'RE LIKE THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL THE QUALITIES I DON'T HAVE.
YOU'RE AN INEXPLICABLE MASS OF LIFE ENERGY!
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SENSITIVE OR COURTEOUS IN THE SLIGHTEST!

MIZUHO...
ALL RIGHT! AXE THE NUN IDEA!
I'LL GET A SEX CHANGE AND MAKE THIS GIRL HAPPY!
HOW DID YOU GET INTO RADIO, ANY-WAY, MIZUHO-CHAN?
WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
WELL, I WAS JUST CURI-OUS...
...WHAT SOMEONE WHO WORKED THEIR WAY UP...
...THOUGHT ABOUT SEEING ME, A TOTAL AMATEUR WITH NO AT-TACHMENT TO RADIO...
JUST GET HANDED A SHOW AND EMBARRASS MYSELF ON THE AIR.
YOU SAY EMBAR-RASS...

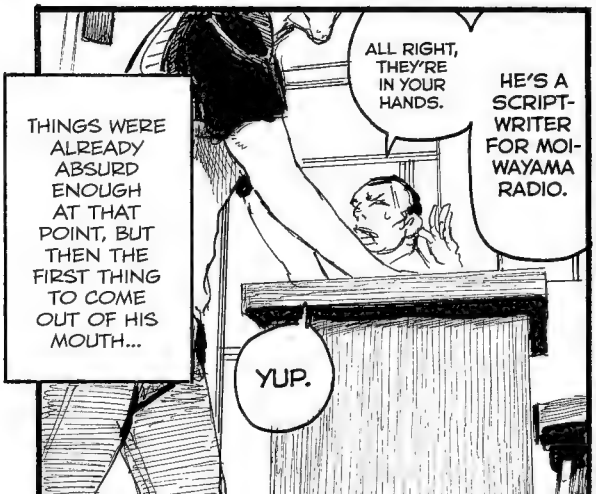

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANYTHING LIKE THAT AT MAJOR BROAD-CASTING STATIONS.
YOU MEAN PEOPLE WHO DON'T BELONG TO AN AGENCY?
BUT CASES LIKE YOURS...
...AREN'T COM-PLETELY UNHEARD OF, MINARE-SAN.
...BUT THAT ONLY REALLY AFFECTS YOUR PERSONAL LIFE, NOT THE STATION.
THROWING FASTBALLS WITH SUCH A CUTE FACE... IS SHE AMI INAMURA* OR SOMETHING?
*A GRAVURE IDOL AND SPORTSCASTER.
AUTHORS, CRITICS, PHOTOGRA-PHERS...EVEN RESTAURANT OWNERS.
...FOR ENTREPRE-NEURS TO WORK AS RADIO SPEAKERS.
BUT AS FOR PREFECTURAL STATIONS, THEY POP UP FROM TIME TO TIME. IT'S ESPECIAL-LY COMMON IN SMALL COMMU-NITIES...
THE REASON I STARTED WORKING FOR MRS...
EXACTLY! HAVE MORE CONFI-DENCE!
I GUESS EVEN A CHARISMATIC WAITRESS AT A SOUP CURRY SHOP HAS A CHANCE.

PE-
CULIAR?
...ALL STEMS FROM A PE-CULIAR DAY OF CLASS IN HIGH SCHOOL.


IN MY THIRD YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, THERE WAS A KIND OF WORKSHOP HELD ONCE A WEEK FOR STUDENTS WHO PLANNED TO SEEK WORK AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.
I OFTEN WENT TO THE LECTURES ABOUT BROAD-CASTING AND COMMUNICA-TIONS MEDIA.

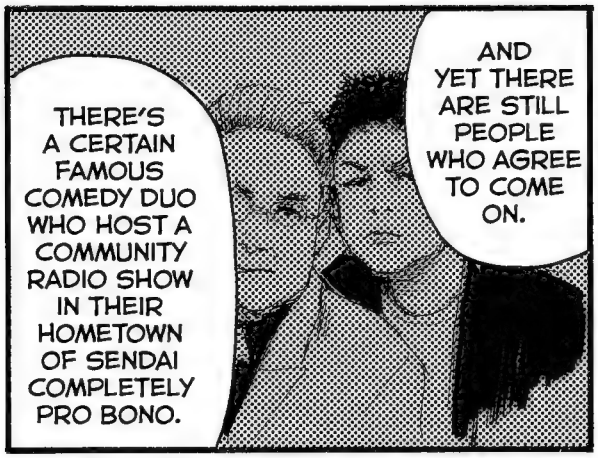

ONE DAY, WHEN THE TEACHER IN CHARGE CAME INTO THE ROOM...

I CALLED IN A FRIEND OF MINE TO SPEAK AS A GUEST LECTURER TODAY, SO MAKE SURE YOU LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
SORRY, EVERYONE! MY WIFE GOT INTO A LITTLE CAR ACCIDENT AND I'VE GOTTA RUN.


THINGS WERE ALREADY ABSURD ENOUGH AT THAT POINT, BUT THEN THE FIRST THING TO COME OUT OF HIS MOUTH...
YUP.
ALL RIGHT, THEY'RE IN YOUR HANDS.
HE'S A SCRIPT-WRITER FOR MOI-WAYAMA RADIO.

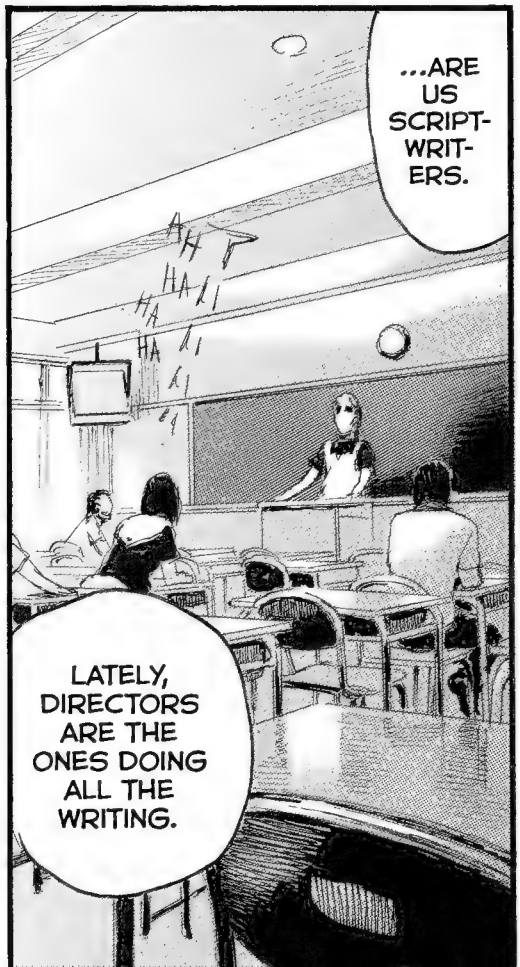
I CAN'T SPEAK AT ALL ABOUT INTERNET RADIO.
I WILL ONLY TALK ABOUT GENERAL BROADCASTING, OR THE SO-CALLED "RADIO STATION."
ANYONE WHO ISN'T INTERESTED IS FREE TO LEAVE. I'LL MARK YOU FOR ATTENDANCE.
HALF THE STUDENTS REALLY ENDED UP LEAVING.
...WAS THAT, OF ALL THINGS.
WHAT STARTED WAS AN INCREDIBLY NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST RADIO.
OR NOT...
BUT THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO FAZE HIM, AND HE WENT ON TO SPEAK ABOUT THE APPEAL OF WORKING IN RADIO.

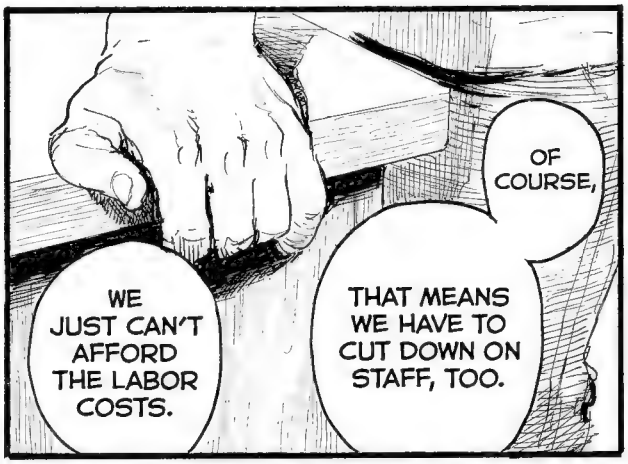
I DOUBT I EVEN NEED TO SAY IT...
...BUT RADIO IS A DYING INDUSTRY.
ADVERTISING EXPENSES HAVE HALVED IN THE LAST 20 YEARS.
IN THE WEST, MAJOR BROADCASTING CORPORATIONS ARE SELLING OFF THEIR RADIO DIVISIONS ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
THE STUDENTS WHO LEFT HAD THE RIGHT IDEA.
WHAT'S WITH ALL OF YOU STILL HERE?
CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES OR SOMETHING?
CURRENTLY, EVEN AFTER COMBINING ALL STATIONS, REGIONAL RADIO RATINGS DON'T AVERAGE EVEN 7%.
THAT INCLUDES THE WEB BROADCASTING SERVICE THAT POPPED UP IN RECENT YEARS, RADIKO.
OVER TEN STATIONS ARE VYING FOR THAT MEAGER 7%.
SO, SAY YOU WANNA MAKE A SHOW THAT'LL PULL EVEN 0.1% OF LISTENERS FROM OTHER STATIONS.
I KNOW! LET'S GET A POPULAR CELEBRITY TO DO A SEGMENT.
AND SO YOU GET YOUR FIRST-RATE CELEB TO COME IN AND TALK FOR FIVE HOURS A WEEK. HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK THE RADIO PAYS IN THE END?

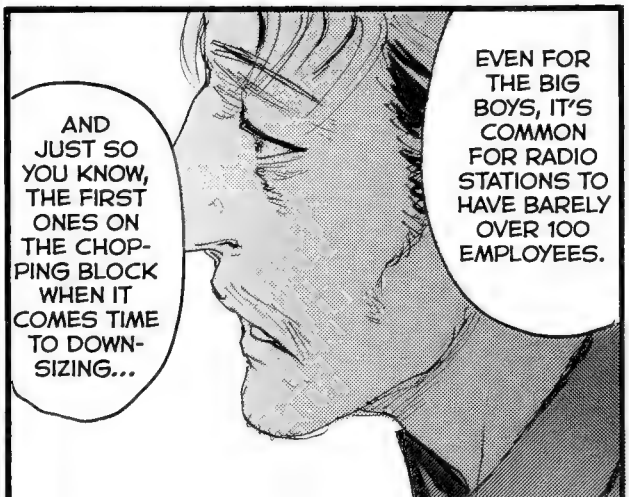

THERE'S A CERTAIN FAMOUS COMEDY DUO WHO HOST A COMMUNITY RADIO SHOW IN THEIR HOMETOWN OF SENDAI COMPLETELY PRO BONO.
AND YET THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO AGREE TO COME ON.

IT'S BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE THEM THAT RADIO IS MANAGING TO JUST BARELY HOLD ON.
IT'S THEIR WAY OF PAYING BACK FOR ALL THE HELP THEY RECEIVED WHEN THEY WERE FIRST STARTING OUT.

20,000* YEN.
THAT'S 4,000** AN HOUR. IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE HARD FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS LIKE YOU TO COMPRE-HEND...
...BUT THAT'S CHUMP CHANGE COMPARED TO TV.
*APPROX. $200
**APPROX. $40


...ARE US SCRIPT-WRIT-ERS.
LATELY, DIRECTORS ARE THE ONES DOING ALL THE WRITING.


OF COURSE,
THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO CUT DOWN ON STAFF, TOO.
WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD THE LABOR COSTS.


EVEN FOR THE BIG BOYS, IT'S COMMON FOR RADIO STATIONS TO HAVE BARELY OVER 100 EMPLOYEES.
AND JUST SO YOU KNOW, THE FIRST ONES ON THE CHOP-PING BLOCK WHEN IT COMES TIME TO DOWN-SIZING...

IF I HAD TO LIST WAYS THAT RADIO BEATS TV IN TERMS OF THE BROADCASTING INDUSTRY...
...THERE ARE FOUR.
"SPEED."
"CLOSENESS TO A REGION."
AND "FREEDOM."
"RESPONSIVENESS TO DISASTERS THAT OCCUR IN SAID REGION."
THE MAJORITY OF PROJECTS ARE SLAPPED TOGETHER IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, AND THE SUCCESS OF FAILURE OF THEM IS DETERMINED BY THE LISTENERS' REACTIONS JUST AS QUICKLY.
IT'S NICE THAT THINGS ARE SPEEDY, BUT IT'S ALSO SCARY AS HELL.
THAT BEING SAID, IT GETS ITS HOOKS INTO YOU.

GAMONE
HOKOS
EXPLOSIVE
Y
THROW-IN!

I LISTENED TO IT EVERY WEEK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET A CHANCE TO MEET THE WRITER OF THAT SHOW!
THAT RIGHT? WELL, THANKS.
It's a throw-in.
so, what's with that pose?
...NOW THAT TAKES ME BACK.
SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT I WROTE ABOUT HALF OF THE SUBMISSIONS THAT WERE READ ON THE AIR.
I STILL THINK THAT SHOW HAD THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF FAN CONTRIBUTIONS IN ALL OF JAPAN!
OH... I SEE...
IT'S SAD TO ADMIT, BUT THAT SHOW WASN'T A POPULAR ENOUGH SHOW TO PULL IN THAT MANY AMUSING SUBMISSIONS.
IT'S MORE COMMON THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

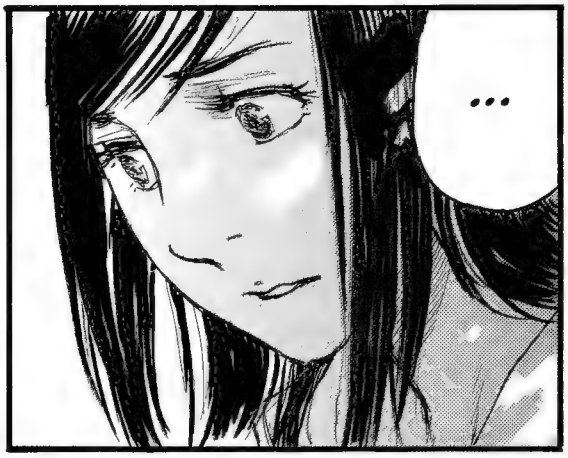
YOU WANNA BE AN AD? HMM...
EVEN AFTER I INTIMIDATED YOU THAT MUCH, HUH? WELL, WELL.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THINGS TO STUDY IN ORDER TO BECOME A RADIO AD?

I'M... MORE OF A BEHIND-THE-SCENES PERSON.
I DON'T HAVE ANY CRAZY IDEAS, EITHER.

WHY AN AD?
UMM...
DON'T YOU WANNA TRY MAKING SHOWS USING ALL YOUR FAVORITE CELEBS AND WHATNOT?

BUT I STILL LOVE RADIO...
...SO I WANT TO HELP IN ANY WAY THAT I CAN.

THERE'S NOT REALLY ANYTHING THAT YOU *HAVE* TO DO.
JUST GO TO COLLEGE, STUDY HARD...
...AND TRY TO EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS.
!
PEOPLE WHO JUST SAY THINGS LIKE, "I WANT TO BECOME AN AD,"
DON'T GET PICKED UP AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES BY RADIO STATIONS.
BUT LET ME SAY THIS...
IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANT TO DO, THEN YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR A JOB AT A PRODUCTION COMPANY, NOT A RADIO STATION.
THEN A TEMP OR PART-TIMER WOULD SUFFICE.
IF THEY JUST WANT HELP OR SOMEONE FOR ODD JOBS,
RADIO STATION ADS...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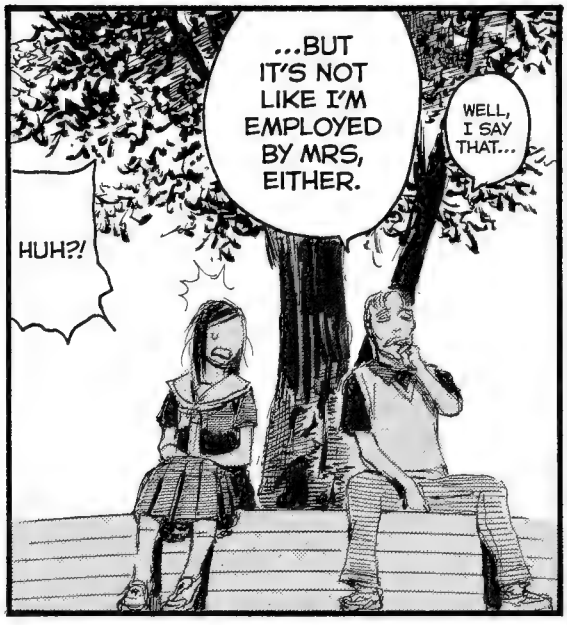
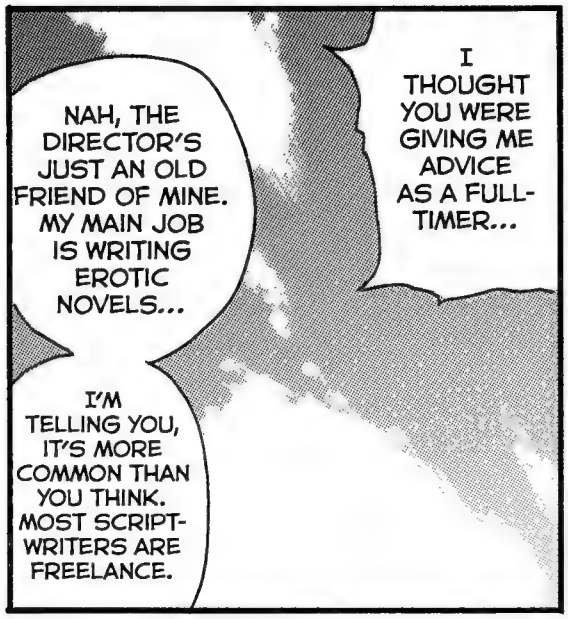

...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M EMPLOYED BY MRS, EITHER.
WELL, I SAY THAT...
HUH?!


I THOUGHT YOU WERE GIVING ME ADVICE AS A FULL-TIMER...
NAH, THE DIRECTOR'S JUST AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE. MY MAIN JOB IS WRITING EROTIC NOVELS...
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S MORE COMMON THAN YOU THINK. MOST SCRIPT-WRITERS ARE FREELANCE.

...ARE BEST OFF WHEN THEY SAY THINGS LIKE, "WHEN I BECOME A PRODUCER, I'LL KILL THIS BORING ASS SHOW AND MAKE AN EYE-OPENING PROJECT THAT WILL BRING IN DOUBLE THE RATINGS!"
BURNING CHEEKY PIPE DREAMS LIKE THAT TO GET THROUGH THE DAILY GRIND IS JUST ABOUT RIGHT.

...GOOD GOING.
THANKS!
I WORKED REALLY HARD!

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
HM? YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
YEP. WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF THE SETTING SUN.

I'LL SACRIFICE... THE LIVES OF TEN SAPPO-ROANS AT RANDOM...
WAIT... ANYONE BUT THAT!
what kind of dream is she having...?
M-R-S JOZV-FM MOIWAYAMA RADIO.
IT SEEMS SO LONG AGO...
MRS
IT'S NOT FINE, KANE-CHAN.
THE NEWS HAS HER LISTED AS PERSONALITY K OF MOIWAYAMA RADIO.
WELL, IT'S FINE, RIGHT?
WE MANAGED TO GET BY WITHOUT FURTHER ISSUE.

AT ANY RATE...
...AS PER THE CONTRACT, I'M GONNA USE THE REMAINING MONTH HOWEVER I SEE FIT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WANTED A YOUNG GIRL FOR LATE-NIGHT, KIKUKAWA-SAN.
YOU REALLY THINK IT'S A TIME A DECENT PERSON WOULD TAKE?
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, POUTING AND SHUTTING ME DOWN LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT, PERSONALLY,
BUT THE HIGHER-UPS WON'T GET OFF MY BACK.
THEY'RE SAYING, "SINCE IT'S A SLOT WITH NO SPONSORS, CAN'T YOU GET SOMEONE A LITTLE MORE RESPECTABLE?"
DON'T BULLY KIKUKAWA-SAN TOO MUCH, MATO-SAN.
HE HE.
I CAN'T TELL WHICH OF YOU IS THE PRODUCER.

MATO-SAN.
STRESS ISN'T ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN THAT LEVEL OF...
IT'S ALL THANKS TO KANE-CHAN THAT MY HAIR'S GONE.
HOLD UP.
OH, YEAH?
WHAT'D YOU THINK?
AND I CAUGHT LAST NIGHT'S SHOW.
I LISTENED TO THIS.
Wave, Listen to me
...INTRODUCING ME TO THIS GIRL SOMETIME SOON?
WOULD YOU MIND...

AFTERWORD

Greetings, everyone. How did you like this third volume of the off-the-rails occult curry radio manga *Wave, Listen to me*? Hm? Romance? That's got nothing to do with me. Am I really obligated to pump every volume full of love affairs? Think about Japan's birth rate. It's the lowest of every developed country, right? That makes me think you're all not as interested in love as you say you are! ...So, I checked Google, and while it appears birth rate numbers continue to drop, the total fertility rate (number of children a woman gives birth to in her life) has been slowly rising since 2005. Hmm. By the way, Hokkaido is #45 out of 47 on the list of prefectural fertility rates. The lowest being, of course, Tokyo. I see...well, what I'm trying to say, everyone, is "Wikipedia sure is neat, huh?" Oh, yes. Speaking of Hokkaido, you might remember how in the last volume's afterword I mentioned that I changed my abbreviation of Seico Mart from Seico to Seicoma after being corrected by readers, then received mail from other readers saying it's actually Secoma. Well, apparently, the parent company of Seico Mart officially made the abbreviation Secoma recently. Upon further research, in addition to Seicoma and Secoma, I found other uncommon abbreviations including "Seima" and "Mart." Mart, huh? Well, see you again in volume four. Hiroaki Samura

Wave, Listen to Me! 3

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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Chapter 24
「YAKITORI MUST NEVER BE REMOVED.」

Y'KNOW, I KEEP FORGETTING AS SOON AS MY MIND WANDERS...
...BUT I WON-DER WHAT TAKARADA-SAN'S UP TO.

COULD YOU ACT EVEN A LITTLE BIT INTEREST-ED?
BEATS ME.
HE'S PROBABLY INHALING OXYGEN AND EXHALING CARBON DIOXIDE, RIGHT?

RIGHT? I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S NOT WHAT TACHIBANA-SAN MEANT.
THAT OLD FART SHOULD JUST CONTRACT SOME UNKNOWN ILLNESS AND STAY IN THE HOSPITAL FOR ANOTHER TWO OR THREE YEARS.

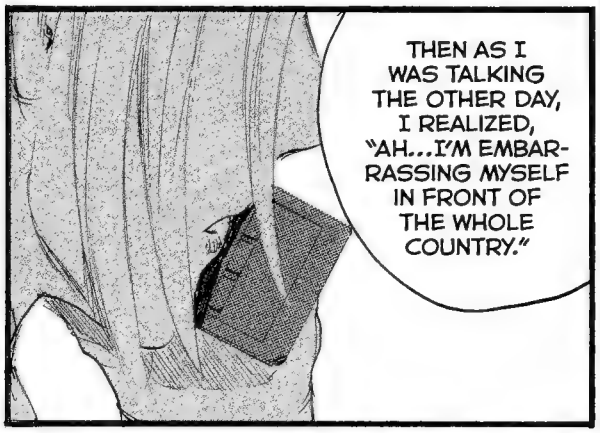
WELL...
...I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO SAY THIS, BUT I'D LIKE IT IF THINGS COULD STAY THIS WAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

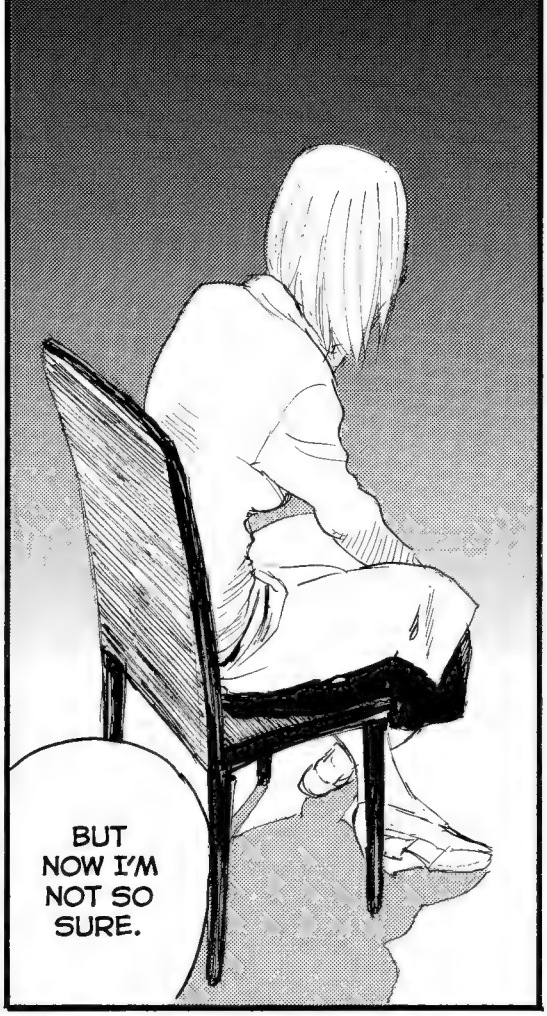
YOU SHOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN YOUR OWN PLACE...
...THEN LEAVE THIS PLACE TOTALLY DESERTED BY THE TIME THE OWNER COMES BACK.
HA HA. I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.
BUT I'VE LEARNED A LOT IN THIS TIME.
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO RUN YOUR OWN RESTAURANT AND SUCH.
WILL YOU THINK OF A NAME FOR MY RESTAURANT, THEN, MINARE-SAN?
OH-HO. YOU GOT IT.
CHA CHARA CHAA CHAA CHA CHARA CHAA CHAA
HOW ABOUT HAINUWELE?
IT'S THE NAME OF AN INDONESIAN GODDESS WHO POOPS GOLD.
USE THAT FOR THE NAME OF A CURRY RESTAU-RANT, HUH? I GET YA...
HELLO, HELLO.
AHH. YEAH, I'M GOOD.

HUH?
ME AND CHISHIRO-SAN? ONE-ON-ONE?
IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?
AM I GONNA NEED TO BRING A PAIR OF KNUCKLE DUSTERS?
What kinda person do you take Chishiro for?
SHE JUST WANTS TO CHAT WITH YOU FOR AN HOUR OR SO.
I GUESS SHE HAD SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR SHOW THE OTHER DAY.

YOU MEAN...? UGH...
WHEN?
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE I'M GONNA GET MY ASS CHEWED OUT.
As early as today, if you can manage. She said she'll wait for you to get off work.
I WON'T FORCE YOU IF YOU'RE NOT UP TO IT.
JUST LET ME ASK YOU ONE THING, MINARE.
At midnight?
Ohh, that's too bad.
I'm going to a day in the life course at a nunnery tonight.
IF YOU'RE GONNA FOOL ME, BE A LITTLE MORE BELIEVABLE.
Are you prepared...
...to continue working as a radio personality from now on?
YEAH... AT THIS POINT...
...I'M NOT ON THE FENCE OR ANYTHING.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, ANYWAY.

I MEAN, YOU CAN ARGUE WHETHER OR NOT THE RADIO DRAMAS FROM THE FIRST AND SECOND SHOWS WENT WELL,
WHEN THINGS GO WELL...
BUT TIMES LIKE THOSE MAKE IT EASY TO FOOL MYSELF INTO THINKING, "OH, MAYBE I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS KINDA THING."


THEN AS I WAS TALKING THE OTHER DAY, I REALIZED, "AH...I'M EMBARRASSING MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY."

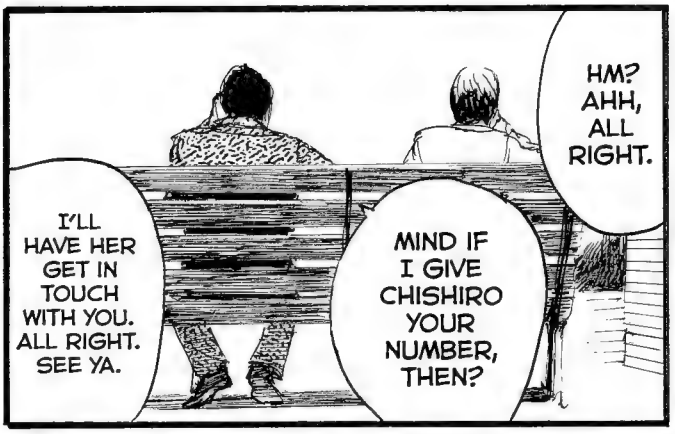

BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.

Eh, he he...
THEN AGAIN, THE CURRY SHOP JOB...
...WILL ONLY LAST UNTIL OUT RESIDENT GAY OWNER RETURNS,
Are you on a kick with that phrase or somethin'?
SO I'M STANDING ON SHAKY GROUND.

I'LL BE AXED IN NO TIME IF I KEEP IT UP WITH THOSE UNSAVORY BROADCASTS.
BUT I'M NOT CONFIDENT THAT I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.
AFTER REFLECTING ON MY OWN SKILLS, I REALIZE I'M STANDING ON SHAKY GROUND.

THERE'S NO HARM IN LISTENING TO WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
SORRY, SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING THAT DEEP BY IT.
ALL I'M SAYING IS CHISHIRO ONE OF THE TOP THREE SPEAKERS AT OUR STATION.

sheesh.


I'LL HAVE HER GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU. ALL RIGHT. SEE YA.
MIND IF I GIVE CHISHIRO YOUR NUMBER, THEN?
HM? AHH, ALL RIGHT.

...BUT NOT WHAT I HAVE IN MIND AT ALL.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT'S BEST FOR THE STATION...

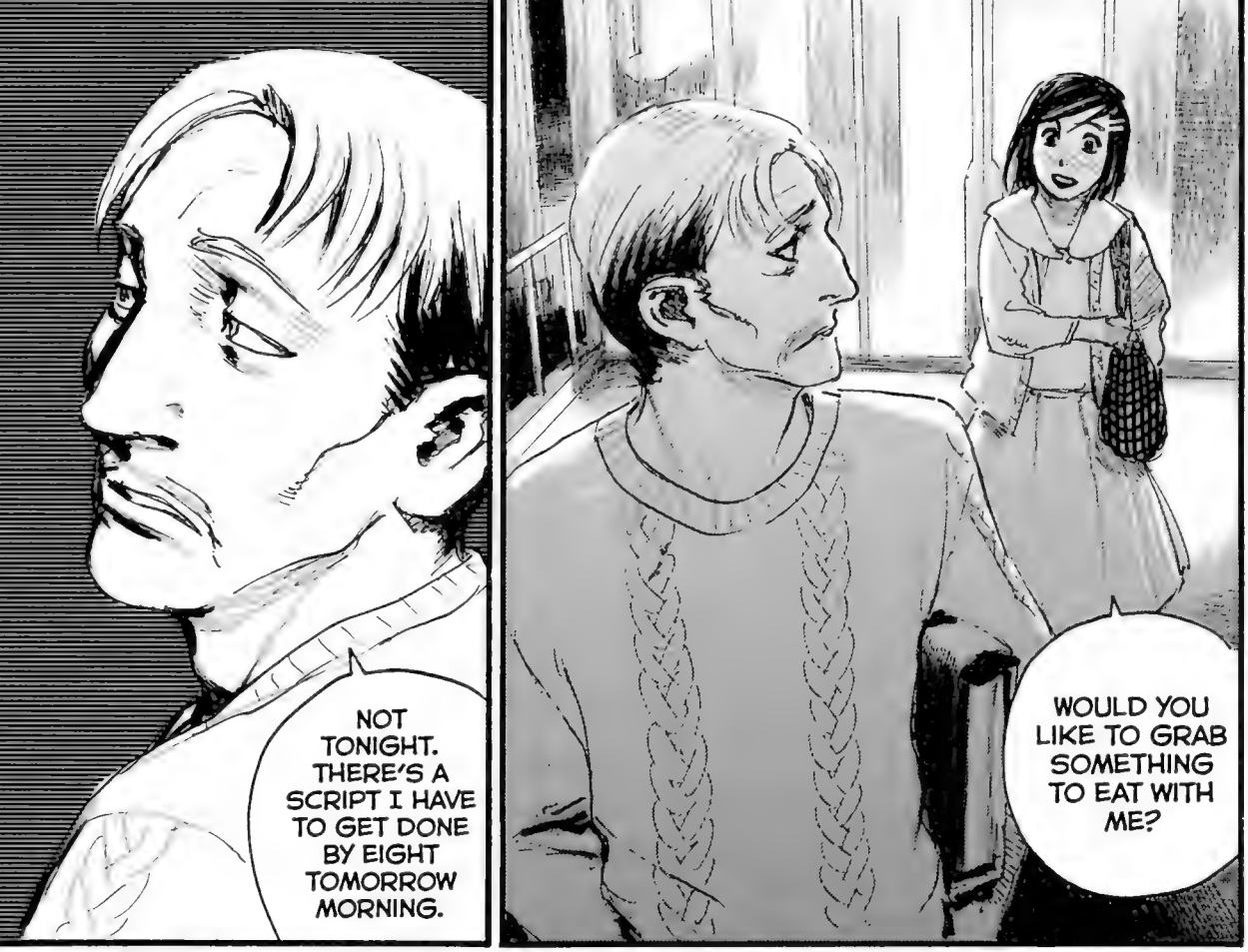
DO YOU WANT TO MOULD THAT GIRL AFTER CHISHIRO OR SOME-THIN'?

I FIGURED.

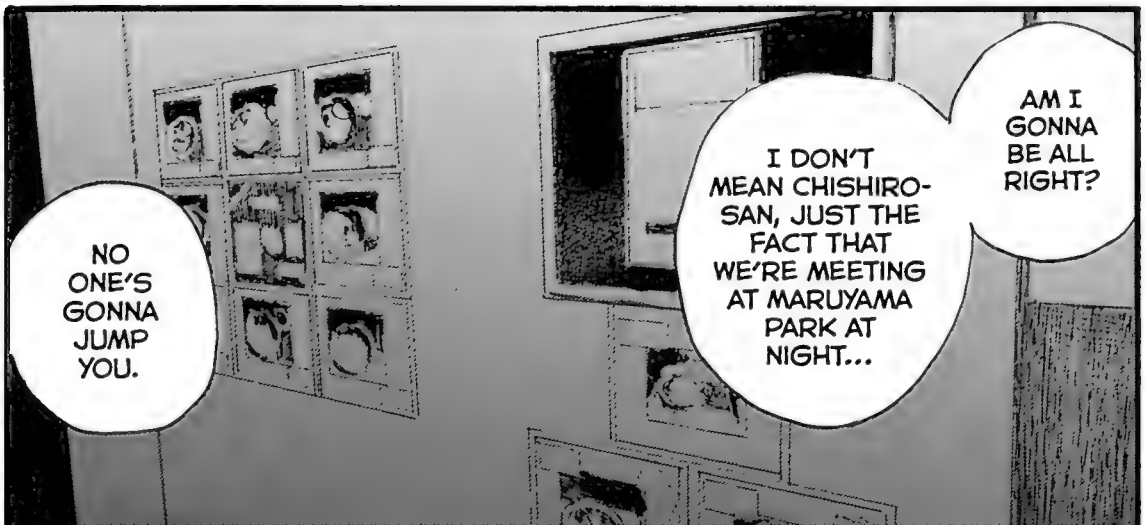
HOW ARE THINGS AT THE RESTAU-RANT? OH, GOOD. IN THAT CASE...
GOOD EVENING.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THIS.

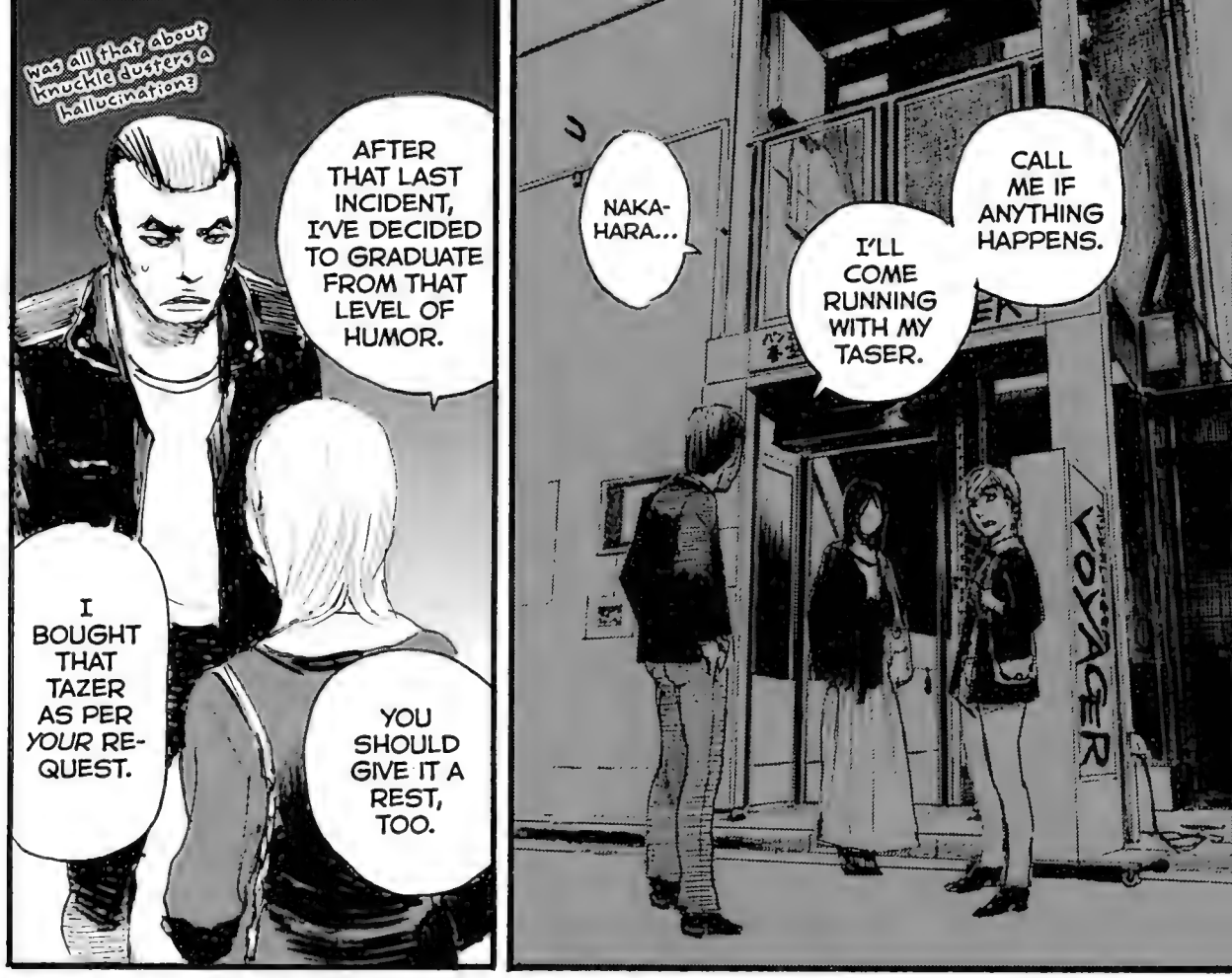
KUREKO-SAN!

THANKS, BUT I HAVE PLANS TONIGHT...
HEADING HOME? I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE.
OOP.


NOT TONIGHT. THERE'S A SCRIPT I HAVE TO GET DONE BY EIGHT TOMORROW MORNING.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT WITH ME?

TAKE CARE. THAT MUST BE ROUGH...
OH... ALL RIGHT.

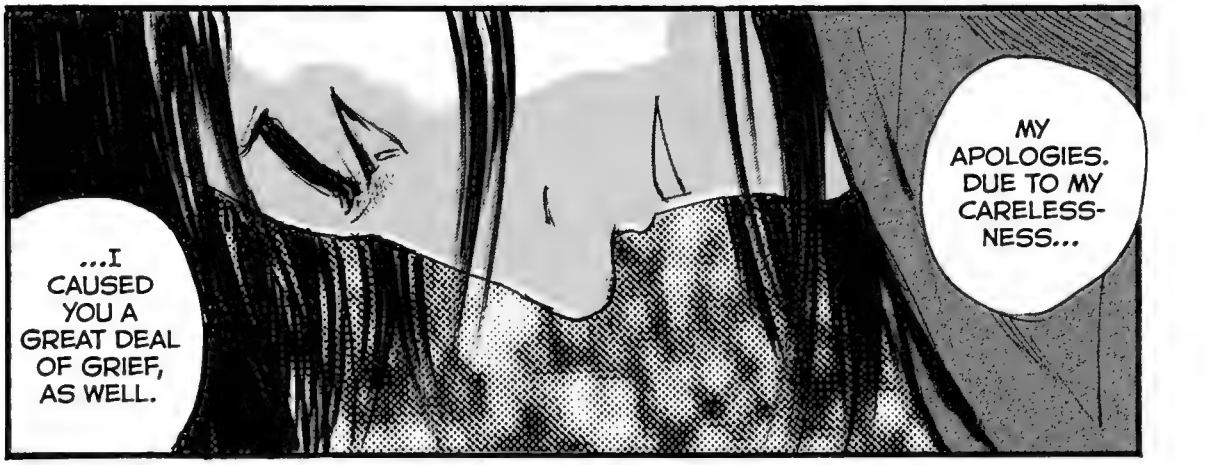

NO ONE'S GONNA JUMP YOU.
I DON'T MEAN CHISHIRO-SAN, JUST THE FACT THAT WE'RE MEETING AT MARUYAMA PARK AT NIGHT...
AM I GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?


was all that about knuckle dusters a hallucination?
AFTER THAT LAST INCIDENT, I'VE DECIDED TO GRADUATE FROM THAT LEVEL OF HUMOR.
I BOUGHT THAT TAZER AS PER *YOUR* REQUEST.
YOU SHOULD GIVE IT A REST, TOO.
NAKA-HARA...
I'LL COME RUNNING WITH MY TASER.
CALL ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
VOYAGER

KUN! ♡
RA
HA
KA
NA

T-TAKA-RADA-SAN?!
AGH!
AGH? DID YOU SAY AGH?
LONG TIME NO SEE, MAKIE-SAN.
AH... IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING OUT AT THE STORE.
OH, THANK GOD I WAS ABLE TO COME BACK TO WORK BE-FORE WINTER!
JUST KIDDING. I WANTED TO SUR-PRISE YOU.
FORGET ABOUT THAT. WHO'S THIS?
In a seven of nine kind of way?
A VALUABLE CREW MEMBER WHO HELPED SEE VOYAGER THROUGH THIS TROUBLING TIME!
BY THE WAY, WHO JUST LEFT? SOME KIND OF DEMON?

!!
FWIP
!
HUH? THAT'S RIGHT.
CHUUYA NAKAHARA-SAN, I PRESUME?


MY APOLOGIES. DUE TO MY CARELESS-NESS...
...I CAUSED YOU A GREAT DEAL OF GRIEF, AS WELL.

ARE YOU BY CHANCE ...?
AH...

MAKIE.
LET'S GO HOME BEFORE YOU IMPOSE ANY LONGER.

WHEW...
MAN, I CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING.

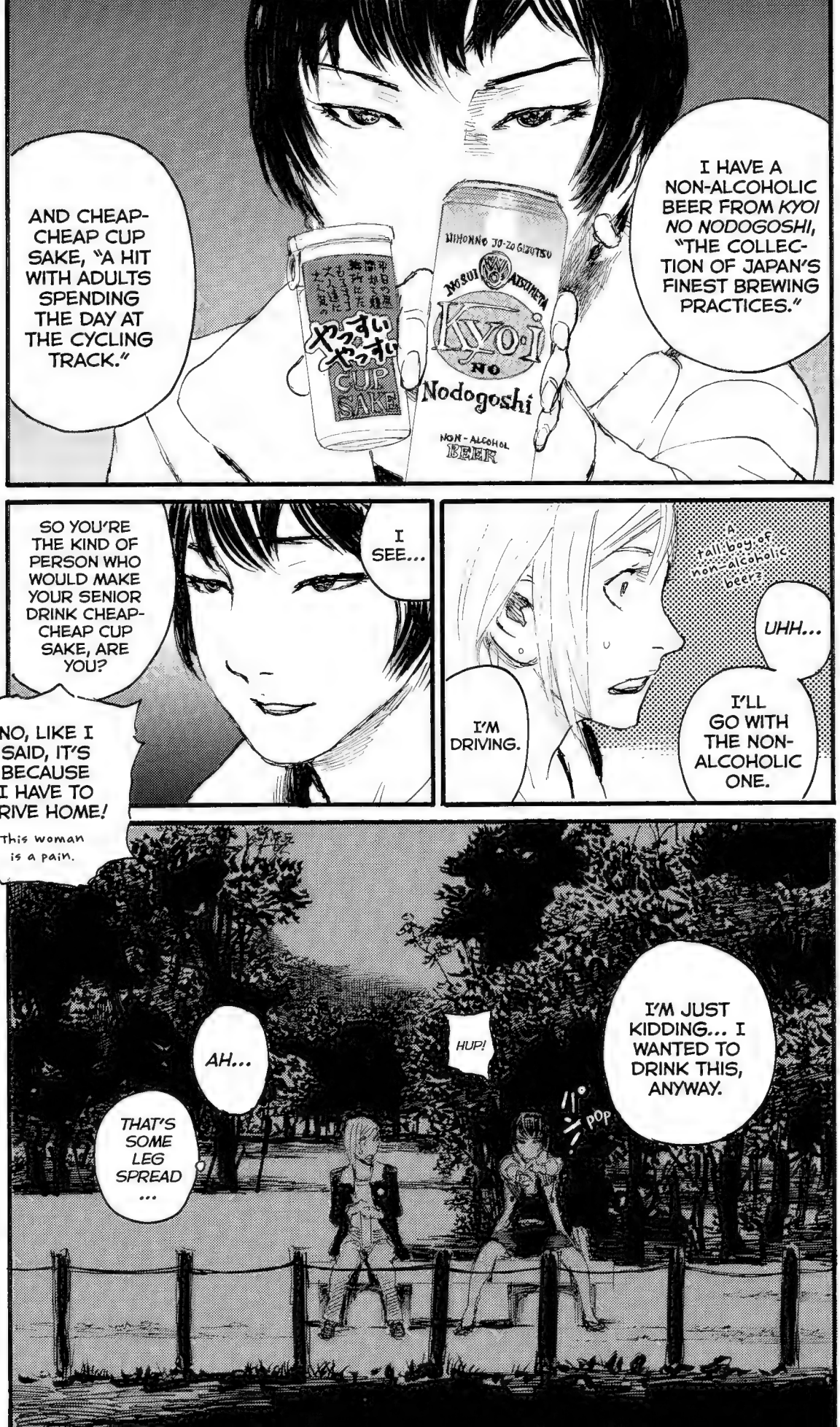
I REMEMBER WATCHING A MOVIE WHERE SOMEONE WAS CALLED OUT LIKE THIS THEN MURDERED AND DUMPED IN THE WATERING HOLE.
I BET I'D FIND AT LEAST SEVEN BODIES IF I LOOKED.
UHH.
I'M GUESSING THIS IS THE POND SHE MEANT.
HEHEHEH!
FOO
I'LL GO AHEAD AND FORWARD THIS TEXT TO NAKAHARA-KUN.
JUST FOR EVIDENCE IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME...

THUD

I DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT I'LL JUST GO AHEAD AND SAY YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU'RE SURE ATH-LETIC. IS THAT SOME KIND OF SUBPLOT?

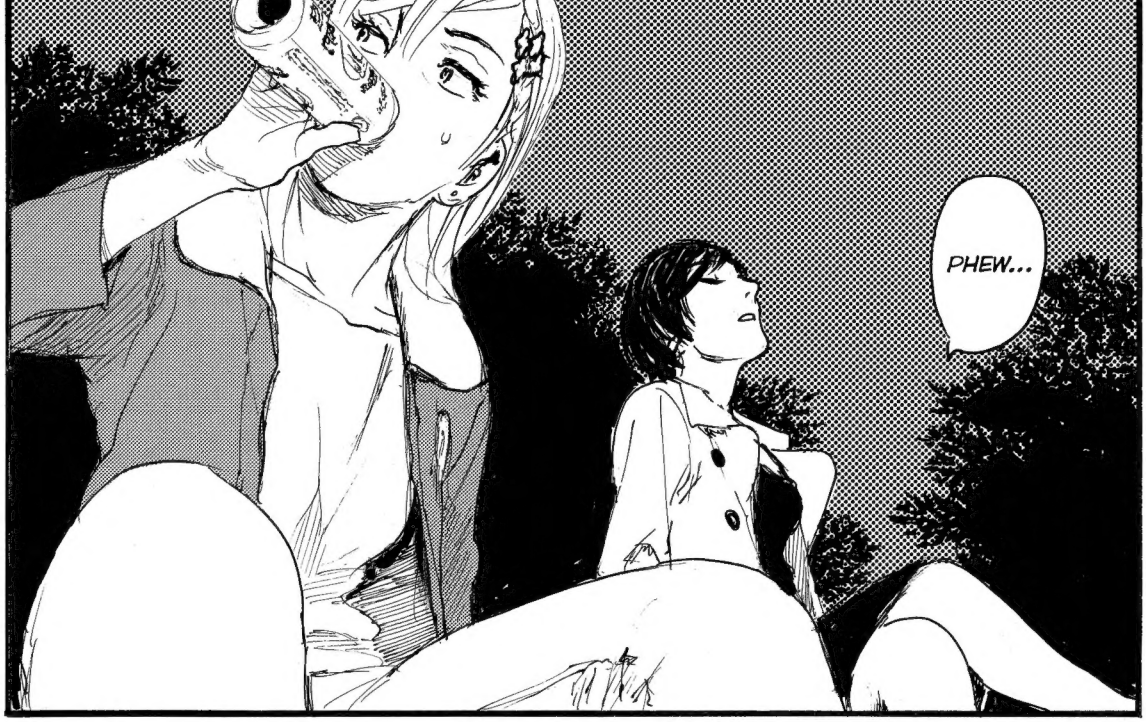
I'M KIDDING. HERE, LET'S HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER, SHALL WE?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU THAT MUCH.
SORRY...


I HAVE A NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER FROM *KYOI NO NODOGOSHI*, "THE COLLECTION OF JAPAN'S FINEST BREWING PRACTICES."
AND CHEAP-CHEAP CUP SAKE, "A HIT WITH ADULTS SPENDING THE DAY AT THE CYCLING TRACK."
NIHONNO JU-ZO GIJUTSU
JYOSUI AISUMETA
Kyoi
NO
Nodogoshi
NON-ALCOHOL BEER
やっすい
CUP SAKE
A tall-boy of non-alcoholic beer?
UHH...
I'LL GO WITH THE NON-ALCOHOLIC ONE.
I'M DRIVING.
I SEE...
SO YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD MAKE YOUR SENIOR DRINK CHEAP-CHEAP CUP SAKE, ARE YOU?
NO, LIKE I SAID, IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE TO DRIVE HOME!
This woman is a pain.
I'M JUST KIDDING... I WANTED TO DRINK THIS, ANYWAY.
HUP!
POP
AH...
THAT'S SOME LEG SPREAD ...

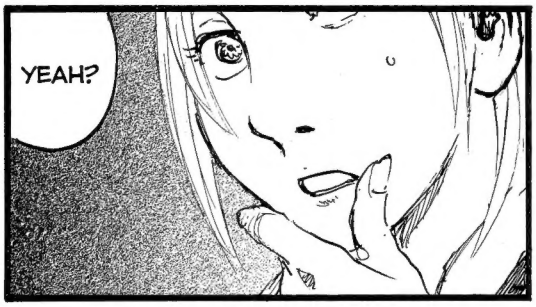
**A BREAD STORE CHAIN.

*GRILLED CHICKEN ON A SKEWER.


PHEW...

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON TAKING *YAKITORI* OFF THE SKEWER BEFORE EATING IT?
YOU DIDN'T CALL ME OUT HERE JUST TO TALK ABOUT FOOD, DID YOU?
I JUST WANNA BE SURE.

SAY, KODA-SAN.


YEAH?

THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

OF COURSE NOT, BUT HUMOR ME FOR A BIT.
THERE ARE THREE EATING HABITS THAT FILL ME WITH THE DESIRE TO KILL, AND THAT'S ONE OF THEM.
THE OTHERS ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T EAT THE RICE WITH SUSHI, AND PEOPLE WHO PUT MAYONNAISE ON EVERY-THING.
I'VE ACTUALLY DONE A POLL ON THIS A NUMBER OF TIMES ON MY SHOW.
HOW DO YOU THINK THE AN-SWERS ARE SPLIT? FIFTY-FIFTY?
THE TRUTH IS, THE MAJORITY OF LISTEN-ERS...
...JOKINGLY ANSWER THAT THEY WANT TO LEAVE IT ON THE SKEWER.
BUT SOME SAY THINGS LIKE, "I TAKE IT OFF TO SHARE VARIOUS FLAVORS WITH OTHER PEOPLE, BUT TO BE HON-EST, I DON'T GET THE POINT OF *YAKITORI*."
OR, "I'D PREFER TO ORDER ENOUGH OF EVERY FLAVOR FOR EACH PERSON."
ON THE OTHER HAND...
...IF I ASK WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT PEOPLE WHO EAT THE CHICK-EN STRAIGHT OFF THE SKEWER...

IT'S IRRITATING TO WATCH OTHER PEOPLE IGNORE THE HANDICAPS WE WILLINGLY ENFORCE UPON OURSELVES.
A MYSTERIOUS RULE THAT EVERYONE WAS MUCH BETTER OFF NOT FOLLOWING...
...OVER HALF THE LISTENERS REPLY WITH,
"THEY CAN'T READ THE MOOD," OR, "I THINK THEY'RE SELFISH."
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S AN INTERESTING LITTLE TALE OF JAPANESE CULTURE?
I MEAN, WHO CARES IF A LITTLE FOOD GETS LEFT OVER IF YOU ORDER ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE?
UH-HUH...
NOT THAT.
I MEAN HOW I SAID IT WAS "INTERESTING."
REMEMBER THIS CONVERSATION, OKAY?
HUH?!
YOU MEAN ABOUT SKEWER OR NO SKEWER?!

AFTER ALL, KODA-SAN...
...WHO'S ONLY INTERESTED IN YOURSELF, RIGHT?
VALENTINE RADIO
2016
PROJECT OUTLINE
YOU'RE THE KIND OF NARCISSISTIC PERSON...